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THURSDAY, JULY 31ST, 2014

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

(See Pages 20 to 23)

PONTYCLUN MAN WAS 'IN A RUSH' AT LEVEL CROSSING

Driver who jumped lights 'could have caused a catastrophe'

COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MOTORIST who jumped red lights at a level crossing on the main Swansea-Paddington line at Pencoed, could have caused a "catastrophe", said a judge at Cardiff Crown Court.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC told 26-year-old Sion Ramson: "It was the most incredibly daft thing for you to have done."

Ramson, of Ynysddu Road, Pontyclun, admitted a charge of dangerous driving and was jailed for four months, the sentence suspended for two years.

He was also made subject to a supervision order for a year, and directed to observe an electronically-tagged curfew from 7pm to 7am for three months.

In addition, he was disqualified from driving for a year, and ordered to pay costs of £100.

Prosecutor Claire Wilkes said that about 6.15pm on February 1, the barriers were coming down on Pencoed level crossing. It was unmanned, and CCTV was in operation.

The barriers were descending and as they did so, Ramson drove across the level crossing at high speed.

He was later arrested and said: "I know I should not have crossed the way I did. I'm really sorry for this, I could have caused a serious accident."

He said he was in a rush because he had been called by his sick grandmother.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Success at the show!

Making the trip to the Royal Welsh Show recently were Mrs Elizabeth Matthews and her granddaughter, Siwan Clarke of Treoes. Their journey was well worthwhile, as their sheep were awarded a highly commended prize in the Cornella Poll Dorset Sheep category. (PHOTOGRAPH BY GLYN EVANS).

THE PHYSIC GARDEN RECEIVES ACCOLADE!

THE Cowbridge Physic Garden has retained its place as one of the most highly-regarded community projects in Wales.

The garden has been judged to be one of just 37 projects in Wales to be awarded the prestigious 'Green Flag Community Award'.

The award recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces in the country.

In fact, it is the sixth year running that Cowbridge Physic Garden has been recognised as one of the finest examples of a community garden.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

First World War commemoration: A NATION REMEMBERS

ONE hundred years ago next week, Great Britain was plunged into the maelstrom of the First World War.

The horrors of the conflict and its dreadful toll on both sides has its echoes today, through family recollections and memorabilia passed down the generations, and the solemn pilgrimages made by many people, old and young, to World War One battlefields.

This week, on pages 20, 21, 22 and 23, The Glamorgan GEM reflects on the causes of the First World War, recounts some heartrending stories of the conflict, and reports on how local people plan to commemorate a war that was supposed to end all wars.

Our thanks to all who contributed and we will continue to welcome your contributions in the weeks ahead.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Rich getting richer, poor getting poorer'

I WOULD like to remind Mrs B Kirke that just after the war most people were fully employed (GEM letters, July 17).

That's how we managed; not like today, where most of the employed people are part-timers.

If you have a full-time job, you are one of the lucky ones – but even then it's a struggle.

I have a daughter who works part-time because she cannot find a full-time job. Recently, the Government stopped her tax credits – amending the hours to 30 per week.

My daughter now gets £100 per week to live on.

Before this UK Government starts slashing people's income they want to get the country back to full-time jobs.

It's my belief that since the days of Thatcher, we've had two million people unemployed.

After serving in the forces, I returned to my old job and my wife worked full-time. In 1955, I bought my first car. Today you are struggling just to run a car.

That's 35 years of Tory policies. At least when the unions *'ran'* the country, we were better off!

So who runs the country best? Not this Government.

All they have achieved is making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Bill Lang,
Barry.

'Not my intention to exaggerate'

I WOULD like to acknowledge Mr Gavin Davies' letter in The GEM, concerning my World War One poem.

I entirely agree with his contention that there is no need to exaggerate the number of the fallen of the Great War. That was not my intention!

My intention was to honour all those who fought and died or were injured.

The facts I used in the post script were obtained from the internet; it was remiss of me not to check that they were accurate.

However, my main aim was to bring to the fore the tremendous sacrifice of all those soldiers who so gallantly served between 1914 and 1918 made on behalf of their country.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the work that Mr Davies does to ensure the maintenance of the Welsh Memorial at Mametz, and wish him the very best for the future.

Ray Pritchard,
Talbot Green.

Confusion over dog ban 'sign'

IN reply to the letter from Jo Cody about dogs being allowed on Llantwit Major beach, she mentions 'a map' displayed in the car park allowing them on to the beach. Several of us have yet to see it!

I have heard they can go on the part of the beach to the left of the car park, but because there is no sign saying this, people are ignoring the dog ban sign and taking their dogs onto the beach.

I feel her letter will confuse the issue of 'NO DOGS'!

Margaret Wood,
Boverton.

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MP REPLIES TO CRITICISM...

'Vale deserves fairer funding settlement'

LAST week, Mr Ingram rightly highlighted the way that the Vale of Glamorgan is underfunded by the Welsh Government from Cardiff Bay.

This is something that I have been campaigning on for a number of years. Regular readers of this newspaper will be aware of my actions in seeking to correct the shortfall.

Last year, I highlighted that Carwyn Jones AM and his colleagues underfunded the Vale by £202 per person compared with Cardiff. Bridgend receives £226 more per person and Rhondda Cynon Taff receives £409 per capita.

If the Welsh Government funded the Vale at the same rate as Cardiff, we would gain an additional £25m a year.

This would stop any cuts that are being made on the basis of cost savings.

Mr Ingram, however, blames the division of local government back in 1995 – only a short time after I left school!

The truth is that the Welsh Government have revised the formula several times since then. Each time the Vale has become worse off. When I calculated the data three years ago, the difference with Cardiff was just £77. The gap is ever widening and is simply unfair. We are either being taken for granted, or seen as a soft touch.

The biggest shift in the funding allocation took place when the late Peter Law, the then Assembly Member for Blaenau Gwent, led a campaign to favour his own area back in 2000. This is when the Vale took a financial hammering. Each revision thereafter has made us worse off.

This is why I have been running the 'fair funding for the Vale' campaign. Well over a thousand people have signed my online petition and I hope that Mr Ingram will join them.

Last time I met the Vale cabinet, I asked them to join me in a delegation to meet the First Minister on this issue. Although the Vale Council leader initially rejected my request, I was pleased that he then said he would consider the matter. I am still waiting for his formal response.

Therefore, I hope that Mr Ingram and his colleagues will join my all-party campaign to gain a fair settlement for the Vale. This is not a party issue. I have been careful to ensure that other political groups are welcomed – and delighted that some have responded positively.

I am not seeking the same level of support as RCT. They have very real needs. Cardiff, on the other hand, is one of the UK's most successful cities. We deserve a funding settlement at least on par with our neighbours. After all, Barry has some of the most deprived communities in Wales.

Alun Cairns,
MP for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Working together for Welsh people

NOW that Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has a junior minister's job at the Welsh Office, is it too much to hope that he'll stop his frequent attacks on the Welsh Assembly Government?

Let's hope the new Minister for Wales, Stephen Crabb and our MP will work with, and not against, the democratically-elected Welsh Assembly Government – for the benefit of all Welsh people.

The attacks on the Welsh NHS made by David Cameron and Mr Cairns were done to take attention away from the shambles that is the NHS in England – caused by the reorganisation no-one voted for.

Should the Conservatives have a majority after the general election, they will finish the job and complete the privatisation of the English NHS.

It has always been the Conservatives' aim to have the Health Service run by private, for profit companies.

G Smith, Llantwit Major.

'Congratulations rather churlish'

I THOUGHT that Guy Ingram from Llantwit First was rather churlish in his congratulations to Alun Cairns MP, following his promotion to the Wales Office and as a Government Whip (GEM letters last week).

He seemed to question whether Mr Cairns will now have time for his constituents. I am certainly no member of the Conservative Party, but recognise the hard work of our MP when I see it. He is extremely active locally and if Mr Ingram read Mr Cairns' column in last week's GEM, he would have seen that for himself.

During last weekend, he reported visiting a business, knocking doors and attending three different fetes – all on the same day.

This is on top of all the other activity championing local interests and causes that I am pleased to see in the local press.

Let's celebrate Mr Cairns' success and acknowledge that he is a very hard-working MP both locally and in London. I don't always agree with him, but his commitment wins my vote.

Elizabeth Wills,
Peterston Super Ely.

Nice houses, but what about the road?

The scene on Town Mill Road.

IT'S great news that the new houses in Town Mill Road, Cowbridge are finally finished – it's been a long haul for the local residents.

But when will the road and pavement be finished and put in an acceptable state?

It is like a lunar surface, with patches on top of patches, craters, lumps and bumps that make driving a nightmare.

The question is – who is responsible and when will they fix things?

J Williams, Cowbridge.

Beth's story is 'inspirational'

WHAT an inspiration to read Beth Margetson's story in last week's GEM and her battle with cancer.

For whatever reason, conventional pharmaceutical drugs do not work for some people – or in my experience can have serious side effects causing other health problems.

They have to look at other ways of treating or maintaining health by taking a holistic approach, recognising each individual's specific needs.

Some of us are fortunate to have well-educated doctors who will support their patient's choices, and know the benefits of holistic medicine, but generally it is an area which needs immediate attention.

Indeed, an organic diet is essential, along with organic supplements towards achieving one's aims – not forgetting healthcare, beauty, and cleaning products which need to be organic and natural, so as not to add to the dangerous 'chemical cocktail' build-up which causes so many health problems. Our pets can also benefit from such care.

Barry's own Holland & Barrett stock the wheatgrass and barleygrass, as well as other useful products, and Waitrose have a good selection of organic produce.

Beanfreaks of St Mary Street, Cardiff, have added an organic juice bar to their store, but yes, we certainly need more access to these products and information in the centre of our town.

Thank you to Caroline Sarll for covering this brave lady's story, and the issues she has outlined. God bless you, Beth, I wish you victory!

Kasey Starr,
Barry.

Resorts that put Barry to shame

COMING home from our recent break on the east Norfolk coast at a small town called Caister, we have had time to reflect on our travels.

One day, we travelled the short distance to the seaside resort of Great Yarmouth, and we were in awe of what we encountered. Walking through the main square to the beach, we encountered numerous shops selling everything you could wish for.

The walk up the main promenade to the sea life centre put Barry to shame. I know the traders of Barry are doing all they can and are doing a superb job, but if only our councils would have a bit of vision and take a trip to one of these English coastal resorts.

Barry could be a wonderful thriving resort, if we had the people to invest in it. Just look at what previous councils have destroyed.

We had Butlins – now gone; we had the Knap Lido – now gone. This is trying to be revived, but I hear the council have rejected this – no surprise there then.

We had the last cinema in Barry, the Theatre Royal – now gone and replaced by a dismal monstrosity.

Various councils past and present should all hang their heads in shame; instead of looking after yourselves give us, the people of Barry, something we can be proud of: invest our money.

Visit these other seaside resorts and see what can be achieved.

DJ Radford, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 7)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
31 Thur	09.47	9.2	22.00	9.1
01 Fri	10.19	8.8	22.33	8.9
02 Sat	10.54	8.7	23.09	8.5
03 Sun	11.34	8.4	23.53	8.2
04 Mon			12.21	7.9
05 Tues	00.46	8.1	13.25	7.9
06 Wed	01.59	7.7	14.47	7.8
07 Thur	03.22	7.9	16.08	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Y BONT FAEN SCHOOL'S SPONSORSHIP DEAL

Y BONT FAEN Primary School celebrated the end of term with a big win, when they announced a sponsorship deal with local estate agents HRT, whilst drenched in sunshine and buckets of fun.

"From September, HRT will become a main partner to the schools PTA in a deal worth in excess of £2,000," said PTA chairperson Victoria Barker.

"We are delighted with this partnership, which will make a significant impact on our campaign to generate funds to support sport and the arts at the school next year," she added.

As a local agency with a long history in the town, HRT are keen to be able to invest in its local community and saw making an investment in its young people the ideal way of doing so.

Robert Calcaterra, residential sales partner at HRT, said:

"We're delighted to launch our new partnership with Y Bont Faen PTA. Supporting the local community is something that is very important to us at HRT.

"For over 80 years we have been a part of the Cowbridge community, during which time we have been proud to support many initiatives and charities.

"We look forward to attending the school's events over the next academic year and building new relationships in the Cowbridge area."

Y Bont Faen's PTA has gone from strength to strength in the last year, thanks to the massive support it is receiving from parents, teachers and many of the towns local businesses, who all contributed to the funds raised which have been invested in the schools 'Woodland School' project, focusing on teaching children all about the woodland environment. **VB**

Cowbridge store team tackles Race for Life

A TEAM from Tesco in Cowbridge ran the Race for Life on Sunday, July 20 to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

PICTURED: (left to right) Laura Williams, Terri Lloyd, Nicki Lloyd, Danielle Vellacott, Sue John, Kate John and Hayley Cooke.

A team of seven from the store walked, jogged, ran and danced 5km to cross the finish line and raised over £150 for the charity. They were also joined by teams from Tesco Llantwit Fardre and Barry Holton Road.

Tesco have been official sponsors of the Race for Life for 13 years and it gets bigger every year.

Group leader Laura Williams said: "We had a fantastic day. The weather was absolutely amazing. There were over 5,000 women at the event, and you could feel the emotion in the air as every single person could relate to being affected by the disease.

"We held Pink Days to raise money and awareness, and we'd like to thank our customers and the people of Cowbridge for their support and donations."

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Speedboat ride for WI!

IN July, Bont Faen WI made the most of the British summer.

Two speed boats were hired for a trip around Cardiff Bay, out through the locks into the channel.

Unfortunately, the sea was a bit too rough to go to Flat Holm but an exciting trip down to Sully was invigorating.

Members unable or unwilling to undertake this adventure stayed on shore and met up in Cafe Rouge for a meal. It was obvious they enjoyed their trip by their enthusiasm when they walked in.

A member attended the 'Mayor making' and enjoyed the brisk march provided by the band, to Holy Cross Church and back, along with the entertainment provided by the local schools. It is great to be a part of such an active community.

The month ended with our traditional July meeting in a member's garden (sorry to the neighbours in Brookfield Park for the noisy chatter of 25-plus women).

We were lucky this year and spent the whole time in the garden, it just starting to drizzle as we packed up.

After a brief business meeting when a member informed us of her recent trip to Denman, events for the coming months outlined, including our traditional mystery trip in August, walk in September, and varied Federation events, we settled down to a great evening of chat, food and drink.

A wonderful ending to a busy year. We start back again in September when you are very welcome to join us!

JJ

Wildlife crime in Vale revealed

AT the latest meeting of the Pontfaen Probus Club in the Bear Hotel Cowbridge, the speaker was Mark Goulding from the South Wales Police.

Entitling his talk 'Wild Life Crime', Officer Goulding gave a fascinating insight into an area of police work which is largely invisible to the general public.

His remit is far-reaching and broad as his duties cover the prevention and control of criminal practices involving animals and the environment.

From the tracking of illegal bird-egg collections and badger-baiting, through regulation of the importation of invasive non-native flora and fauna species to our shores, to investigating the trafficking of exotic birds from South America as a means of laundering drug-money, his talk revealed an array of accounts of criminal acts, many of which occur on our doorstep here in the Vale.

Next month's talk is 'Mametz Wood', the World War One battle which involved Welsh soldiers.

The club is formed of members coming from professional or business backgrounds who are now semi or fully retired; if any readers are in these categories and are interested in learning more of the Pontfaen Club, please contact its president Brian Kent on 01446 773838 or secretary Colin Wilson on 01656 860498.

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Cowbridge Physic Garden picks up yet another award!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The chair of the trustees, Mrs Jo Homfray, commented, "We are thrilled to have been awarded this award, for the sixth year in a row.

"It is all down to the hard work and dedication of our team of volunteers, whose skill and green fingers make the garden so special for all of us.

"We never take this award for granted, as so many other gardens fail to make the grade. We are delighted to have won it again in 2014."

Joanna Friedli, Green Flag co-ordinator for Wales, commented: "Keep Wales Tidy is extremely proud that so many community-managed green spaces in Wales have reached the high standards necessary to achieve Green Flag Community Award status.

"The success of community sites is due to the commitment and dedication of local volunteers, and it is thanks to them that we have fantastic community facilities available on our doorstep".

CLASSICAL BALLET IN OLD HALL GARDENS

A GARDEN PARTY, held in the Old hall Gardens in Cowbridge, featured performances from local ballet dancers.

The event proved to be very successful, and a total of £420 was raised for Velindre Hospital cancer research.

The dancers were from the Moya Vahey and Ella Morgan schools of Russian clasical ballet, based in Cowbridge and Pontyclun.

'DRIVER JUMPED LIGHTS' court told

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

His counsel, Carl Williams, said: "I fully accept the barrier does not operate unless a train is coming.

"Ranson called an ambulance for his sick relative."

He said he had learned his lesson. He added that he had been taking cannabis and suffered anxiety and depression.

The judge pointed out that cannabis is a dangerous drug which causes mental and physical side effects.

"Why young people want to smoke it, we'll never know."

Concerning the level crossing incident, the judge said: "What you did was a particularly stupid and potentially catastrophic thing. A train was clearly due but you drove around the barriers.

"He said he had put at risk his own life and those of people on the train."

MORRISONS RULE OUT COWBRIDGE

LAST week's GEM reported on speculation that Morrisons was planning to open a store in the now vacant Spar site on High Street, Cowbridge.

At the time we went to press, the supermarket chain had not responded, but shortly after our printing deadline, a spokeswoman contacted The GEM to say:

"I can confirm that we have no plans to open an M local in the High Street".

Morrisons added that they were opening a store in Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff.

CYCLE RIDE

THE Vale Cycle Touring Club will berunning an easy 14 mile circular morning ride from Cowbridge, starting from the car park behind the Town Hall at 10.30am on Tuesday, August 5.

A spokesman said: "Stopping for water and to re-group as necessary, the ride will last about 2 to 2.5 hours with a possible refreshment stop at the end.

"Any cyclists wishing to come along will be more than welcome; the event is free."

For more information, visit: thevalectc.weebly.com/runs-list.html.

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Father's nightmare after spider bite

Report by **TIM CHAPMAN**

A father of three from Barry has told of his nightmare experience after he was bitten by a spider, which led to a gaping wound, two operations, and the fear his foot might be amputated.

Jason Butler, aged 41, was out in his shed at the beginning of July when he suffered the bite.

"I had to sort some stuff out in the shed and as I moved a box four or five spiders ran out – like money spiders on steroids.

"They were on the ground and I wasn't worried because I'm not frightened of spiders.

"One bit me on the ankle. I felt the pinch, grabbed it and pulled it off. It was three-pronged bite.

"At the time it wasn't painful, just a gentle sting."

What Jason couldn't have imagined was the anguish that would follow.

When he sat down for tea, it started itching and he put Savlon on it.

He and his wife Sonia became concerned as the redness grew. Visits to the doctor's followed and antihistamines and anitbiotics prescribed – but the redness got worse and the ankle swelled further.

ABOVE: Jason Butler recuperating at home after undergoing two operations to drain the infection from his foot.

A second course of anti-biotics appeared to stem the swelling, but then it returned.

"It was stinging – as if someone was giving me injections. It was aggravating and disturbing."

Sonia said: "At one stage, the ankle had swelled to three times the usual size, and his leg was swollen up to the knee."

Eventually, his family insisted he go to the University Hospital of Wales.

Jason said: "I had to wait eight hours to be seen and then they told me I had to stay in for an operation, which took place two days later.

"The surgeon opened it out to drain fluid and the infection. They weren't happy and two days later, I had to have it done again."

Jason was told that if he hadn't gone up to the hospital, he could have been facing amputation of his foot: "Everybody is shocked – even the district nurses.

"I went up to the hospital again for treatment last Friday and a girl was in there with a badly swollen leg from a spider bite.

"I want people in Barry to be aware of the danger."

Although the professionals haven't hazarded a guess as to the spider responsible, Jason and Sonia are confident it was a 'False Widow' spider with a bulbous, shiney black back.

Jason is being looked after at home by his family and undergoing negative pressure vacuum wound treatment to get more of the infection out.

"I think I've got a four to six month recuperation," he added.

Anti-biotics failed to stop the infection.

ABOVE: The wound caused by the bite.

ABOVE: Jason's foot went purple as the infection spread.

ABOVE: Jason says it was a False Widow spider like the one shown in this image.

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Gileston crowned Vale's Best Kept Village

ON a lovely July morning, judging for the 2014 Vale of Glamorgan Best Kept Village competition took place, with the chief judge, Mrs Morfudd Meredith, accompanied by chairman Irena Wasilewska and secretary Carole Alexander.

The first stop was the largest of the three villages, Wenvoe: there was evidence of a high standard of care in the village with the residential gardens looking at their best.

The church and churchyard are very well maintained and the chief judge particularly liked the memorial and garden.

She commented: "Wenvoe is an attractive and obviously thriving, active village, where many people take pride in their community and environment".

Next stop was the village of Llanmaes and the chief judge felt the whole community must have been involved as the village was exceptionally clean and well maintained.

The village hall and garden were very colourful, with their summer planting and the boules pitch an original idea and excellent for bringing the community together.

Mrs Meredith said: "I particularly liked the children's play area. It is situated in a quiet, enclosed spot, away from the road. The line of wellies planted with sunflowers (***right***) is a wonderful fun way of getting children involved in gardening and the 'bug hotel' added extra interest to the area".

The final village to be judged was Gileston. Again there was evidence of community involvement in this delightful village. The centre had pretty focal points with a special feature of 'silent drums' to commemorate the start of World War One and the telephone box was decorated with a similar theme.

In a shaded corner of an immaculate small village green is a memorial seat to Horace Price, a local resident who lived to be over 100 years. All hedgerows, walls and roads were exceptionally well maintained.

Mrs Meredith said: "This is a lovely village and the residents, quite rightly, take an active role in helping it look its best.

"It is a peaceful haven in the Vale of Glamorgan and well worth a visit".

The winners of the competition were announced at a recent awards evening, with Gileston being the overall winner with a cash prize of £500 and a 4-VIP hospitality ticket to Ffos Las Racecourse.

Llanmaes was second with a prize of £350 and Wenvoe was third with a prize of £200.

The John Curteis Special Feature Award was awarded to Ystradowen which had transformed a lay-by into a lovely garden and had recently sited an oak bench dedicated to Betty Lever. **CA**

ABOVE: Showing off the trophy are Gileston villagers Barbara Hastings, Carol Williams, Bill Thomson, Nick Oliver, and Eryl and Geoff Nicholls.

THE 'LAVENDER LADY' LETS GENIE OUT OF THE BOTTLE!

BEFORE the July meeting of St Hilary WI, the fitter members took part in their annual walk around the village in aid of Macmillan Nurses.

The meeting then started in the village hall when the president, Betty Thomas informed members that the proposed visit to St Hilary of the Oxwich and Penrice WI in August will have to be postponed, due to ill health and difficulty with transport.

It is hoped that another time can be arranged at a later date. As there is no meeting in August, a visit has been arranged to Ewenny Church on August 27.

A tour and talk have been organised and members will then have lunch at a local hostelry.

Members expressed interest in a possible tour of the BBC Studios in Cardiff and further information will be sought.

Members were informed of the itinerary of the NFWI Centenary Baton in the Cardiff area from August 20 – 26, in case anyone wishes to join in at any of the events.

A talk and demonstration was given by 'The Lavender Lady', Mrs Pat Summers, who told members that when she retired and downsized, she had two lavender bushes and, after reading an article on lavender bottles in the *Woman's Weekly* magazine, she became interested and expanded her number of bushes.

Lavender 'bottles' are made by weaving ribbon lengths round the heads and stalks of lavender. They are then dried and will last for years.

A squeeze of the woven heads releases a wonderful aroma. Pat demonstrated how this is done and then invited members to have a go themselves, proving that it is a skill which is not as easy as it looks!

During refreshments, members celebrated the 80th birthday of vice president and social secretary, Ray Evans.

The next meeting will be held on September 9. **SD**

Did over £100,000 of taxpayers' money go down drain - ALL FOR THE SAKE OF A KEY?

A councillor claims a legal dispute over access to a lane on the outskirts of Barry may have cost the Vale Council more than £100,000.

by TIM CHAPMAN

Coun Philip Clarke, who took the council to a civil court, says the whole dispute and its huge costs, could have been avoided if he had simply been given a key, allowing access through a gate and down Cwm-Ciddy Lane.

He and his wife Alison moved to their property in 1987 and in the early years were able to go up and down the lane, which leads to Porthkerry Park, by car or horse.

But in around 1996 neighbours near the lane objected and took action.

Coun Clarke explained: "A lock was attached to a gate preventing my legal right of access from our property south along Cwm-Ciddy Lane to Porthkerry Park.

"This action, initiated by neighbours, was supported by the council.

"My requests to remove the lock were refused on a number of occasions which left me with no other option but to take legal action to uphold our right of way.

"It was my view that the action was one sided and not in the public interest because there was a possibility of the council losing the case with the cost implications for the public purse."

Coun Clarke, who represents Rhoose, said that two years ago when he was elected a councillor he again took steps to bring about a resolution with the Vale Council, anxious that the dispute be settled amicably and without further cost.

"I sought to resolve the matter again by speaking to the council requesting a key. This was refused, leaving me with no option but to continue with my claim.

"The Vale Council had contacted a London barrister and requested a three day hearing at a Cardiff court which included a site visit.

"Their legal team amended their defence. This meant that my legal team of Berry Smith LLB had a significant increase in workload with additional legal costs."

Coun Clarke said: " I was frustrated and stressed – my capital was at risk, but not that of my neighbours.

"At this point, with my costs alone rising above £50,000, I requested that my lawyer offer a 'drop hands'."

It would have meant Coun Clark discontinuing his claim and both parties ending up responsible for their own costs.

Coun Clarke takes up the story: "The offer was refused. Had I capitulated at that point we would have been subject to the council's costs as well as our own which were substantial."

The hearing took three days with witnesses from both sides.

Coun Clarke said: "Our witnesses were members of the public who gave good evidence to support our claim by giving a true and accurate account of their journeys to and from Cwm-Ciddy farm and our property in vehicles, on horseback, and on foot in the years gone by.

"Written and verbal statements from witnesses on both sides were subject to cross examination by the barristers.

"Some months later we received the judgment informing us that we had won our case which meant that the council had to foot the legal bill of our costs and theirs which I understand was in excess of six figures.

"They had to provide us with keys to unlock the gate. We received £3,000 in compensation.

"Our claim could have been settled with a key at the outset."

Coun Clarke claimed the council should have been more rigorous in scrutinising what their witnesses were saying before deciding to defend the case.

"It was a futile waste of taxpayer's money," he insisted.

The GEM asked the Vale Council how much the case had cost council taxpayers and whether the council regretted fighting the case.

The Vale Council declined to comment.

ABOVE: Coun Philip Clarke fought a case to establish his rights of access along a local lane.

Ladies' Society raised £1,635

THE Ogmore Valley Ladies Society held its annual garden party on July 15 at the home of Clive and Lydia Davies at Blackmill.

On a very warm and sunny day, the event was extremely well attended and a total of £1,635 was raised, which will be distributed amongst various organisations of the Valley.

The ladies would like to extend their thanks to all who attended and also to all who gave donations.

The society meets at 6.30pm on Mondays and extends a welcome to anyone who would like to join.

Sheila Evans (secretary).

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Man suffered fractured jaw

A PORTHCAWL man, who was kneed in the face, suffered a fracture to the right side of his jaw, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

His attacker, Shaun James (22), who also broke into his own mother's home and stole £40 that she had raised for church funds after selling cakes, was jailed for 22 months.

James, of no fixed address, who had lived in New Road, Porthcawl, admitted inflicting grievous bodily harm on Jay Holwell (22) and a charge of burglary.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC said James had "rained blows" on Mr Holwell

Report by AJ SICLUNA

before delivering a *'coup de grace'* by kneeing him with full force in the face.

The burglary, said the judge, was "as mean and spiteful as one could imagine."

Prosecutor Jonathan Bushell said Mr Holwell had been a friend of James.

James made false accusations against Mr Holwell and on December 16, a gang of 10 to 20 people including James, surrounded Mr Holwell in Porthcawl.

James punched him 10 times and as Mr Holwell tried to defend himself, he was kneed in the face, causing the right side of his jaw to snap.

Moments later, he had difficulty breathing because of blood in his mouth.

He was treated at Morriston Hospital, where plates and screws were put into his jaw.

A number of nerves were affected and a full recovery could take two years.

When arrested, James said Mr Holwell suffered the injuries because he fell over.

While on bail, his mother gave him a meal before she went to church.

When she returned, she found her home had been broken into and £40 stolen.

James was said to have convictions for 14 offences, including theft and burglary.

His counsel, Hugh Wallace, said that it was his first conviction for an offence of violence. The theft from his mother, he said "was nothing less than biting the hand which fed him".

He was ordered to pay £100 victim surcharge.

The Penarth Ramblers get close to nature

THE prize of an enamelled kingfisher brooch for the first person to spot the somewhat elusive kingfisher lured 17 walkers out on a hot and sultry morning for a visit to the delightful Usk Valley, beginning from the small National Trust car park near Clytha Park.

Setting out with leader William and joining the Usk Valley Walk to pass Trostrey Lodge, the group set to the task of winning the badge and keen eyes found a grey heron, the first of many, then a family of green woodpeckers and some ducks, but no kingfisher.

Heading across the river at Chain Bridge some very overgrown footpaths through fields led to their coffee break in the shade of a couple of oak trees, before crossing the Newport to Abergavenny railway line and pausing on the bridge to view the old station, now converted into a picturesque private dwelling.

Skirting around Llanover Park Estate and reaching the beautiful 13th century St Bartholomew's Church at Llanover, the group enjoyed lunch in the shade, along with one of William's favourite poems by WH Davies.

Returning to the river, a colony of sand martins swooped down over the water after insects as the group disturbed a party of Canada geese preening themselves.

Up ahead and oblivious to the group of walkers, a kingfisher was hovering above the water after a fish which it missed. Landing on an overhanging branch, it spotted the group and with a flash of electric blue, streaked away.

With the afternoon sun still high in the sky and finding a pebble beach on a bend in the river, boots and socks came off for a cooling paddle and a presentation of the kingfisher brooch to Terry.

A family of swans quietly paddled by, while a pair of lapwings took to flight and, re-crossing the river at Llanvihangel Gobian, the brilliant day was rounded off with a thirst-quenching drink in the Clytha Arms, a converted dower house.

On August 2, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 12-mile hard walk to Y Grib and nature reserve; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On August 3, meet at 9.30am at Cogan for a five-mile moderate walk in the Sirhowy Valley taking in Mynydd Machen; contact Jan/John on 01446 418514.

Some degree of fitness is required: if in doubt, contact the walk leader for advice. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Police tracking the petrol scam thieves

FOLLOWING several petrol thefts in the Barry area, officers in the town are warning that more and more drivers are turning to theft to escape the high price of fuel.

South Wales Police warn that criminals behind this practice pose a much wider problem for everyday motorists.

PC Nicola Owen explained: "Thieves targeting fuel pumps are also targeting number plates in an effort to pin their crime on other drivers.

"We have issued a CCTV imagery of a suspected fuel thief that is wanted in connection with theft of fuel from Morrisons in Barry on May 3 at around 1.30pm. The silver Ford Focus he was driving was fitted with two different numbers plates when he filled up with fuel and drove off without paying".

Inspector Chris Owen gave more detail: "Thieves steal, or fraudulently clone, a number plate of an existing road user. They then attach those plates to other cars, sometimes a very similar make or model to the original vehicle, and use it to commit various crimes including petrol theft. Petrol theft may be the focus but it's much more involved than that".

"People don't realise what a serious crime it is if their number plates go missing, or are copied, until they get a parking fine or their insurer says they were involved in an accident when in fact it's down to someone else using their number plates."

Anyone with information in connection to the CCTV imagery should contact South Wales Police on 101 quoting reference number 1400152024. Alternatively Crimestoppers can be called anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Charity sale

A CHARITY book and ceramic sale is taking place until Sunday, August 3 in the rear garden of 115 Pontypridd Road, Barry (turn left at the lights).

Access is via the rear drive off Ffordd Cwm Cidi. It will be mostly open from 10am till 3pm. All the proceeds from the sales will go to the Tenovus Cancer charity and the Motor Neurone Association.

All the books are said to be either new or in very good second-hand condition and they need new homes!

PACT meetings

GIBBONSDOWN PACT public meeting will be held at The Residents' Board Office, Coychurch Rise on August 12, at 10.30 am.

Coffee & Chat meeting will be held at The Red Fox, Penllyn on August 20 at 11am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 – or log onto www.ourbobby.com.

AM WELCOMES 'DEMENTIA' PLANS

REGIONAL AM Andrew RT Davies has welcomed the launch of a three-year plan to tackle dementia in and around the Vale of Glamorgan.

Experts are predicting a rise of up to 53 per cent in cases of dementia in Cardiff and the Vale by 2030.

The action plan has been developed in conjunction with carers and patients and will be delivered by the local health board alongside the Vale and Cardiff councils.

Mr Davies said: "I'm pleased to see that this plan has been developed in co-ordination with patients and carers.

"Government initiatives are all too often driven from the centre, when success is actually dependant on buy in from the people who have an everyday understanding of the issues faced by dementia sufferers. Most Vale residents will have a friend or family member who has been affected by this tragic disease and it is alarming that experts now expect the numbers to grow in the coming years."

Alcohol and dementia link

NEW research has uncovered a link between drinking alcohol and dementia.

Experts say that patients should be told to cut their alcohol intake as part of new health checks for the over 40s in England.

'Mid-life MoTs' do not operate in Wales, but South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies said that the advice would be an invaluable public health message – particularly in light of a predicted rise in dementia cases.

Valeways walks

Sunday, August 3 at 2.30pm, 'Border Vale' starting at St Owain's Church, Ystradowen.

August 5, at 10am, Hoffi Cerdded Hoffi Coffi, starting at Coffee Cove, Barry Island.

August 6, at 10.30am – the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Visitor Centre.

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Council defends school time advice during summit

VALE MP Alun Cairns has called on the Vale Council to justify the closure times at local schools during the NATO summit which is due to take place in Newport this September, *writes TIM CHAPMAN.*

Many of the 11,500 people attending the summit will be arriving at Cardiff Airport and making their down the M4 to Newport.

The Vale Council, mindful of disruption on the road network, has provided advice to headteachers which means there will be adjustments to school hours. But Mr Cairns said he was angry at what he termed a "blanket approach" to close schools in Barry and the rest of the Vale, which he says conflicts with police advice, and guidance given by the NATO Unit and 10 Downing Street.

He said the Vale Council was over-reacting to the summit, with schools closing at 2pm on Wednesday, September 3, and Friday, September 5, and to open at 11am on Thursday, September 4. Mr Cairns insisted: "Closing schools during the NATO summit is absolutely unnecessary.

"The police have categorically stated that there will be no closure of roads. They have merely said that pinch points will be managed while the summit is taking place which will minimise the impact on the community.

"They have also commented that they will avoid peak times of travel, taking into account the drop off and pick up times of schools in the area.

"I have received countless complaints from parents who are concerned about the effects that the school closures will have on their children.

"What is most shocking is that some schools in Cardiff and Newport will remain open while our schools will be closed. The argument about the airport and the roads around it is not recognised by the organising bodies."

Mr Cairns added: "As a new Welsh Office Minister, I will play a part in the NATO summit. As a result, I will continue to pursue matters with the senior police and the officials at 10 Downing Street to ensure the least possible disruption locally."

The Vale Council's director of learning and skills, Jennifer Hill, explained that it was trying to balance local pupils' education with possible congestion on the road network.

She said: "Given the scale of the event and role of Cardiff Airport, there will inevitably be some disruption to the transport network in the Vale.

"The Vale Council will be working hard in the run-up to the summit to ensure that our residents are fully aware of any likely impact to our services."

She emphasised: "The council is taking the same approach as other local authorities in south Wales and working with schools in the county to ensure the impact on children's education is kept to a minimum.

"In the run-up to the event, each school is advising parents about the arrangements they have made during the summit. Taking account of advice, a number of schools have decided to alter their start or finishing times to minimise disruption."

Car park dispute: *police issue appeal*

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a dispute between two men on Sunday, July 13, around 2.30pm in the car park at Southerndown.

They wish to speak to two male bikers who were present at the time, and may have witnessed the incident near a fish and chip van in the car park.

Call South Wales Police on 101 (quoting reference number 1400251926); free and via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or through website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

VALE COUNCIL WELCOMES £1m LOCAL INVESTMENT

BARRY has been named as one of seven areas to benefit from a £7m tackling poverty fund.

Minister for Housing and Regeneration, Carl Sargeant, recently announced that Barry would be receiving a £1m injection to help with a variety of projects.

The money will go towards funding the conversion of empty properties on Holton Road into affordable homes for young families, as well as improvements to Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of paths and enhanced disabled access.

The funding will also go towards improving children's facilities in the Gibbonsdown area.

New play equipment for younger children, as well as new picnic benches, will be introduced at Dryden Terrace, and improvement works will begin at Meggitt Road, including re-surfacing, installing new football goals, and improving access for pushchairs and disabled users.

Improvements will also be made to convert empty shops into homes on Main Street, create a community and internet café at the Barry YMCA, improve children's play areas in Barry, including the George Street play area, and help with the merger of the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services and the Vale Volunteer Bureau.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, said: *"This is fantastic news for residents, businesses and our Third Sector partners in Barry.*

"We made a strong case for encouraging investment to make better use of commercial properties; to support children and young people through learning and play opportunities; to address fuel poverty issues; and to provide service hubs that support people into education, training, volunteering or employment.

"I expect the benefits of this investment to be widespread."

Coun Neil Moore, Vale Council Leader, added: *"The council is committed to achieving the best future investment strategy for Barry and will work constructively with the Welsh Government to achieve this.*

"We are delighted to receive this news and I am very much looking forward to seeing the programme of projects come to fruition."

Fundraiser

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale held a successful coffee morning and clothes sale at The Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry which, with a raffle, raised £300 for Health Shop funds.

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'LET'S NOT SPOIL FAMILY FUN ON THE BEACHES' – GEM READER

I AM writing regarding a minor incident which occurred today (Friday, July 25) when as a Barry family of four, we arrived at Southerndown beach at midday ready for a fun afternoon on the beach.

We set up camp in an area which was not overpopulated but had a few families dotted around.

After a short time, we decided to play a game of rounders just in front of our tent. It was hilarious and great fun until a lady returned to her umbrella and beach towel, obviously unhappy we were playing in her area.

As the sponge ball rolled onto her blanket, obviously annoyed, she asked us why, when the beach was so large, did we choose to play near her? Her manner was unpleasant and rude and we stopped playing instantly.

I chose not to reply, partly because I believe she had embarrassed herself sufficiently and also, as children were in the vicinity, I did not want to cause a scene.

The reason for my letter is this: it's the first week of the school summer holidays and we are basking in the unusually hot summer.

How many parents are desperate to have time off work to enjoy these precious days with their children? Surely if anyone choses to go to the beach during these holidays, they must expect families to be enjoying in games all over the sand.

Plus, families have every right to play wherever they want – after all, as individuals we do not own the beach. As a 44-year-old mother of two,I have spent many a happy day at the seaside being splashed, being hit by stray balls, being run into and have even fallen over running children!

It's the beach – it's fine to have fun and be a family in the company of hundreds of other people.

I feel the lady at Southerndown (who was accompanied by another lady and a small child), should have been thrilled to see a family enjoying themselves away from electronic gadgets and televisions.

Summer holidays are a time to embrace the joy a family feels when spending time together, it is not the time to covet a piece of sand and be selfish enough to stop their enjoyment.

Let's enjoy the sun and school summer holidays; let children be children, and families spend quality time together on a beach playing a ball game.

The lady didn't spoil our afternoon – as a family, we enjoy each other's company whatever we're doing.

But please, if you visit the beach this summer expect ball games, laughter and families having fun, so please don't spoil their holidays by being so grumpy.

Instead, let's practice community spirit and encourage families to enjoy our beautiful local beaches.

In my opinion, it's the best day out a family can have.

Name and address supplied.

Witnesses sought after death of cyclist

SOUTH Wales Police are appealing for witnesses, after a cyclist died following an accident around 5.40pm on Wednesday, July 16 in Penarth.

The rider, Martin Trinder, aged 25, from Cardiff was cycling along St Augustine's Crescent, going down a steep hill towards St Augustine Road, when he appears to have lost control and fallen, causing himself serious injuries.

Mr Trinder was taken to University Hospital Wales, and remained there until July 22, where he died from his injuries.

South Wales Police are asking for anyone who may have witnessed the accident, or anyone with information connected to the incident, to contact them on 101 quoting reference number 1400256228.

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LETTER

'Not in favour of a merger'

SO a new poll of more than 600 residents has revealed there is strong opposition to the merger of Cardiff and Vale Councils. I am really not surprised because this would have a detrimental impact on Barry and the rest of the Vale.

It is now important that we all take notice of this opposition because it is clear the residents of the Vale do not want it.

I have to agree that we would lose our local identity, have less accountability and my concern is that Cardiff would dump their 40,000 plus housing allocation here in the Vale.

A two-thirds majority cannot be wrong and I have consistently objected to these proposals and will continue to do so. The public has spoken in a poll, so how about a proper referendum to decide?

If it is allowed to go ahead, this would be yet another Labour letdown because although costs must be brought down, a merger with Cardiff is certainly not the way forward.

We must now all continue in our fight against this proposal!

Coun Richard Bertin, ***Independent councillor.***

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Poignant time for us all to reflect, as Wales Remembers 1914–18

EVERYONE will be touched by the events marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War on August 4, with a 'Lights Out' service and candlelight vigil at the Barry War Memorial from 9.30pm, organised by the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion.

All are welcome to attend and people are encouraged to bring their candles.

On August 4, the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, will attend a service at Glasgow Cathedral with Commonwealth Heads of State; and will come back to Wales to lead a national service of Commemoration at Llandaff Cathedral, as we start a commemorative period over the next four years.

The Welsh Government is supporting events and initiatives involving schools, community groups and choirs and has contributed to the memorial at Langemark in Belgium, and to the refurbishment of the memorial to the 38th (Welsh) Division at Mametz Wood.

The Dragon at Mametz Wood has been cleaned and restored under the supervision of sculptor David Petersen and is now back in place at Mametz Wood in France, ready for a commemorative event in July 2016, which will involve the local community, as well as families of veterans and all those involved in supporting the event.

Only recently, I attended the National Theatre Wales' powerful and moving production of *Mametz* in a wood near Usk, which was written by Owen Sheers, drawing on the writings of Wyn Griffith and David Jones. The lives and experiences of all those affected in the Battle of Mametz and back home in Wales and England were brilliantly portrayed by Welsh actors.

Last week, Tim Rhys-Evans, who directs Only Boys Aloud, introduced a memorable concert at Atlantic College – following a week's work in bringing together young men aged 14 – 19 from rugby clubs across the south Wales valleys – chosen to sing and learn together with professionals from the Only Men Aloud team.

He spoke about their discussions during the week – when these young men 100 years ago were likely to have been the ones who would have gone off to war.

These were young people developing skills and self-confidence which will open up their opportunities, but they clearly wanted to understand and remember the history of the First World War and it was brought to them in a very powerful way.

All children and young people will be encouraged to find out about the impact the war had on their families and communities. I well remember my grandfather, who was an engineer in the Royal Navy at the Battle of Jutland. His brother was killed in the war.

Choirs will play their part in the commemorations, such as Cor Meibion De Cymru, who will sing in Flanders – including members from the Vale of Glamorgan.

Every local concert I have been to recently has included a hymn or song for commemoration.

The Cowbridge Male Voice Choir's annual concert on July 26, in the packed Leisure Centre, dedicated '*Gwahoddiad*' to the memorials.

Across the Vale, there will be events, services and displays over the next few weeks, including the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railway Station (open Wednesday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm and on Sunday, August 10); followed by the Wartime Weekend August 30 – 31 www.wartime glamorgan. Cymru'n Cofio/Wales Remembers 1914-1918.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

'Weak points on funding for Vale'

READER'S VIEW

I CANNOT understand why your headline letter from last week (The GEM, July 24, 'Can Mr Cairns use his influence?') was given such prominence. The points made were weak.

I welcome Mr Ingram's congratulation to Mr Cairns for his elevation and that it must be good for the Vale, but he is Junior Office Minister for all of Wales and not just the Vale. Mr Cairns cannot use his position just for the Vale.

I also welcome Mr Ingram's encouragement for the visits to Westminster. I had the pleasure of one back in the 1980s (very much pre-Alun Cairns) and would recommend it to anyone vaguely interested in UK politics.

Mr Ingram goes onto say that the funding set up in 1995 has not been changed by subsequent Conservative administrations! I think he will find that the Tories left office in 1997 and we had a Labour UK administration from then until 2010. Does he think that the Conservatives are the only party able to alter the funding and the Socialists are not interested in Wales?

We have had a Labour-led Assembly since its inception, are they not responsible with their UK comrades over these years?

He says there is only nine months to sort it out. As I suspect, he wants a Labour victory at the general election and seems to also accept they will do nothing about the funding if elected.

The UK is now coming out of the economic mess left by the previous Labour administration and I know fair funding is of great importance to the Vale, but I fear there remain greater problems still to solve.

Graham Snowdon,
Llantwit Major.

VALE BRIDGE CLUB results

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for July 28 were:

First, Mike Best and David Birt, 77.05 per cent; second, Tony Disley and John Evans, 65.36; third, John Beard and Liam Sheridan, 60.42.

LE

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Wednesday 13th August, 2014

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Vale Farmers' Market Food Court
Horticultural Show
Cardiff Airport Home Produce Marquee
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Sheep Shearing
Fair Ground
Bee Keepers
Cattle, Pigs, Sheep
NEW Maesglas Vets
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BARRY ISLAND WEEKENDERS 2014

FREE EXCITING FAMILY EVENTS AT BARRY ISLAND

19 & 20 July
The Isle of Fire

Barry Island will once again transform into a fiery landscape. Explore Fire breathing flowers and scorching sculptures. **From 9pm each night.**

26 & 27 July
Street Music Weekender

All That Jazz, The Bucket Band, The Rock Choir, Wonderbrass and Samba Galez. **From 12noon each day.**

2 & 3 August
Street Theatre Weekender

Shows start at 12noon each day with performances throughout the afternoon.

Sunday 10 August
World War I Commemoration Day

Barry Island Gardens will be home to a British WW1 soldier's encampment. **From 11am to 5pm**

16 & 17 August
Sport, Art and Play Weekender

Beach sports, climbing wall, Play Village and graffiti workshops. **11am to 4pm each day.**

23 & 24 August
Cinema by the Sea Weekender

SAT - THE GOONIES
SUN - MAMMA MIA
From 8:30pm each night

30 & 31 August
Barry Wartime Weekend

Experience WW1 and WW2 living history encampments plus

SAT - Red Arrows Display
SUN - BBMF Dakota fly past

Event takes place at Barry Island Railway Station and Hood Rd

Bring a picnic, blanket or low backed chair. Deckchairs available to hire

Events take place on the prom or gardens and may change at short notice.

For more information please call 01446 704737 or go to www.visitthevale.com @visitthevale

LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST TO BENEFIT AS...

GEM article inspires reader to donate her locks to charity

Samantha with her plait (left) and (right) less than half an hour later, the job is complete and the Trust is set to benefit.

A recent GEM article inspired one of our readers to take the plunge – and donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust.

Samantha Liscombe from Barry had her hair cut in Newcastle and has forwarded her locks on to the trust.

The trust provides real-hair wigs, free of charge, to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland that have lost their own hair through cancer treatment.

Samantha said: "Reading an article in The GEM recently, inspired me to donate hair to the Little Princess Trust.

"I hadn't thought my hair would be long enough but seeing the lady in the paper bravely having her hair cut, I knew I could do it, too.

"I've gone a lot shorter than I had first envisioned, but it is such a great cause that I'm just happy to have been able to help.

"My foot-long plait has already been sent off to the trust, and I'm over-the-moon with the amount of money I've raised so far and am hoping it will keep growing."

For children already suffering from cancer, losing hair can be very upsetting. For more information on the work of the trust, go to: www.littleprincesses.org.uk

CATFEST'S RECORD BID

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre is urging local people to join a cat-themed Guinness World Record attempt at Catfest 2014, on August 16.

"Taking place at the adoption centre on Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Catfest 2014 will see hopeful record breakers celebrating the centre's 20th anniversary by attempting to set the record for the largest gathering of people dressed as cats," a spokeswoman explained.

"Would-be moggies will not only have the chance to don their best feline garb, but will also have the opportunity to enjoy the many other attractions available on the day between 10.30am and 4pm."

Entrance to the record-breaking event is £1 for adults, and 50p for children, with all money going to charity; the record attempt takes place between 2pm – 3pm.

For more information about the event, call 01656 723496, visit www.bridgend.cats.org.uk or turn up from 10.30am on August 16.

Poll says 'No' to a Vale-Cardiff merger

A POLL of over 600 residents in Cardiff and the Vale has revealed strong opposition to Welsh Government plans for a merger of the two local authorities.

The poll, which was undertaken online and via telephone, found that almost two thirds (63.5 per cent) oppose the proposals to merge Cardiff with the Vale of Glamorgan. Just one in four support Welsh Labour's plans.

Respondents gave a range of reasons for their opposition, with one claiming that "council tax would rise"; another worried that communities in both areas would "lose local identity"; while another feared that "increasing the size of the local authority boundary would make councillors less accountable to their constituents".

One Vale of Glamorgan resident also expressed concern that a merger with Cardiff would lead to increased development on the Vale's green spaces.

The poll received 608 responses.

Regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, commented: "I have consistently expressed my own concerns, not just as a politician, but as a resident of the Vale, over these plans. It appears that residents in both Cardiff and the Vale are far from enthusiastic about Welsh Labour's plans to create a 'Greater Cardiff' authority.

"We all understand that the cost of politics needs to be brought down, but the wider Williams' proposals need to be considered sensibly on a case-by-case basis. Clearly, these proposals are not welcomed by the vast majority of local residents."

'Foodbanks sad indictment of cost of living crisis'

PROSPECTIVE Labour parliamentary candidate for the Vale, Chris Elmore, recently volunteered at the Vale Foodbank, taking donations in Tesco, in Barry.

"It is very concerning to see the number of families who are turning to foodbanks for support. Around 7,000 people from right across the Vale have now relied upon foodbanks since 2010," he said.

"Volunteers from across the Vale work so incredibly hard to help those in need and I was struck by their dedication and passion for helping those who are vulnerable.

"Spiralling energy costs, the rise in VAT and cuts to working tax credits have put thousands of families from right across the county on the brink.

"It is also shocking that of the 7,000 who have desperately turned to foodbanks, 3,000 are children," Mr Elmore pointed out.

"I was bitterly disappointed to hear that Tory ministers have refused to meet with the Trussell Trust, who operate the vast majority of foodbanks across the country.

"The more that they continue to put their heads in the sand, the more children will go hungry. They should at least come to the table and acknowledge there is an urgent problem that needs fixing."

The Trussell Trust operates three foodbanks in the Vale of Glamorgan – in Barry, Dinas Powys and Llantwit Major – which have all opened since 2010.

Foodbank use has risen by 43 per cent in one year. Across Wales, 79,000 have used foodbanks.

Just under one million people used foodbanks in the UK in the past year.

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'Enrichment Week' is held at Barry Comprehensive School

Enjoying the walled garden at Dunraven Castle.

A practical application of light using an endoscope in the 'Lab in a Lorry'.

Investigating sound in the 'Lab in a Lorry'.

THE last week of the school term saw Barry Comprehensive School students and staff engage in a range of experiences for 'enrichment week',

Students had many opportunities for trips out of school, travelling to Oakwood, Margam Park, Storey Arms, Disneyland Paris, Boulders Activity Centre, Southerndown and Laser Tag.

In school, sport was the order of the day with the gym, playing fields, Astroturf and sports hall in constant use.

The school also welcomed a visit from 'Lab in a Lorry' – a mobile science lab for young people.

Designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, Lab in a Lorry offers 11 – 14 year-olds the opportunity to explore science through specially created interactive experiments conducted under the guidance of expert mentors.

Our thanks to everyone involved for making Enrichment Week a great success.

Andrew Clissett

LUCY THE LEAP IS LOOKING FOR LOVE

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(Tel 01656 725219)***

Lucy the Leap in action

DOGS Trust Bridgend is appealing to local dog-loving sports fans to help find a home for a talented four-legged athlete!

Adorable Staffordshire Bull Terrier Lucy Lou is known at the Rehoming Centre not only for her good looks, but for her athletic prowess.

This very energetic lady has been nick-named 'Lucy the Leap', after Bridgend's former long jump legend Lyn 'The Leap' Davies, and staff hope her talents will help her win the ultimate prize in the form of a loving new home.

Playful pooch Lucy Lou was handed in when her owner was sadly no long able to care for her, and is looking for a new best friend to play endless games of chase.

Two-year-old Lucy is a fetch fanatic who will bound after anything, be it a ball or a discus, and over anything!

She is a real heptathlete, who would love an active owner to help continue her agility training.

Beverley Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend rehoming centre Manager, said: "Lucy Lou is a golden girl who would make the perfect pet in the right home. She needs to live with active, adult owners who have experience of her breed and will take the time to get to know her. She is still young and just like any athlete, she could do with extra training which will help her settle and become part of the family.

"Lucy Lou can live with a compatible dog able to keep up with her zest for life... Whether you are training for the Commonwealth games, or just enjoy long rambling walks, Lucy Lou could be the girl for you."

Anyone interested in offering Lucy a new home should call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725 219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk Dogs Trust Bridgend has dogs of all shapes and sizes looking for homes and, when matching dogs with new owners, staff will consider a wide range of homes and circumstances providing that they will fit the requirements of the dog and provide them with a loving lasting home.

LINDA FEAGAN,
Supporter Relations Officer

TOY AND TRAIN FAIR

THIS Sunday (August 3) Barry Tourist Railway is holding a toy and train fair at Barry island Station between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

There will be a wide range of vintage toys on offer from 60 stallholders. A full-sized heritage diesel railcar set will also be offering rides and shed visits to visitors on the Barry Tourist Railway.

Contact John Buxton, Director, on 07595 023749.

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27/8/2014	Wednesday	Builth Wells	£14.00	£13.00
17/9/2014	Wednesday	Carmarthen Market & Tenby	£9.50	£9.00
20/9/2014	Saturday	Bath City Centre	£7.50	£7.00
03/10/2014	Friday	Cotswolds 4 Day Short Beak Weekend	£171.50	£171.50
12/11/2014	Wednesday	Carmarthen Market	£9.50	£9.00
29/11/2014	Saturday	Worcester Xmas Fayre	£13.75	£13.00
30/11/2014	Saturday	Ludlow Medieval Xmas	£15.00	£14.00
07/12/2014	Sunday	Bath Xmas Market	£13.75	£12.75

Additional Summer, Autumn & Winter dates will be added to our full 2014 programme. Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential. local pickups throughout South Wales.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR DAY TRIPS OR THE HIRE OF COACHES OR MINI-BUSES CALL TELEPHONE 01656 - 660366
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BRYN HAFREN SCHOOL'S 'ANNIE' AT THE MEMORIAL HALL DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

Photographs by IAN DIXON

BRYN HAFREN drama department presented the popular musical 'Annie' at the Memorial Hall in Barry early in July.

A spokeswoman said: "The auditorium was packed for two nights and people were enthralled with the slick performances.

"The singing and dancing was of a high standard, and the costumes were outstanding.

"Audience members remarked that 'it was a wonderful evening' and 'the cast were remarkable'."

Out and About with The GEM

Bluebirds are winging in to play United!

ON Tuesday evening (August 5), Barry Town United welcome tough opposition from Cardiff City FC to Jenner Park, for the third annual pre-season friendly between the clubs (*7pm kick-off*).

Tickets are £5 (with a reduced rate for under-12s) and can be obtained from club secretary David Cole, on 07557 665847 or online at *www.barry.ticketsource.co.uk*

The Jenner Rooms will be open for refreshments, with a barbecue, face painting and junior football action at half-time adding to the family fun.

"Supporters are urged to secure their seats early to avoid disappointment; demand in recent years has been high and capacity restrictions will dictate the availability of tickets on the day," a club spokesman said.

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£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE
Our GEM Facebook winner for July 24, 2014 is:
Sarah Stephens
who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM.
Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.
The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.
Congratulations, Sarah!
REMEMBER TO LIKE US AND SHARE ON FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/glamorgangem

Arts festival set to reach an exciting conclusion

NOW in its third year, Barry Arts Festival will reach an exciting conclusion this weekend, after more than 20 events across the town this week!

Tonight (Thursday), local singers from the Forte Cabaret Showcase at Barry Island Sports and Social perform a number of popular hits from the 60s and 70s.

Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan, will speak at the Blue Deli on High Street, reflecting on the place of the church in modern society.

Tomorrow, local comedian Mike Bubbins is the star turn on Barry Island, but before that, Alex Harries from BBC Cymru's hit noir detective series, Y Gwyll/Hinterland, will be speaking at the Blue Deli about the success of the TV show.

An all-day folk music festival brings the arts festival to a close on Saturday, with headliners Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin, who have recently been awarded the Radio 2 Folk Awards prize for best duo.

Also in Saturday's line-up are the Roving Crows; Sean Taylor, who recently released his sixth album of blues music; Ange Hardy, Fatea Magazine's female vocalist of the year; multi-instrumentalists Ben Walker and Chris Knowles, and the local James Clode Band.

The folk festival starts at 3.30pm with tickets available on the door.

Exhibitions continue from VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists) at the Travellers' Café and Gallery at Barry Station, Steve Miller's abstract paintings at the Old Post Café on Holton Road, and works from Barry Hookers' sewing and crochet at Barry Library.

More information on all events available on the Barry Arts Festival website at http://www.barryartsfestival.org.uk/

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Calling young photographers!

TV personality Chris Packham (right) with former RSPCA chief photographer Andrew Forsyth, judging the children's entries.

WITH the school summer holidays stretching out ahead of us the RSPCA's 'Young Photographer Awards' is the perfect boredom buster for children.

They could win a brilliant prize for taking a photo of their favourite animal – whether that's a shot of a snail in the garden, a portrait of the family pooch or a snap of a sheep in a field. Plus, if they are a finalist, they will be invited to the awards ceremony at the Tower of London in December that I am hosting.

I've been judging the competition for several years now and it's always really exciting to sift through the entries and whittle them down to the winning shots.

There are some beautiful photographs which literally take your breath away, some shots which make you see animals in a completely different way and some pictures which just make you laugh.

Don't worry – you don't need an expensive camera to take part. If you are 18 and under just get snapping and visit *www.rspca.org.uk/ypa* for more information about the categories and how to enter.

Entries for this year's competition are already rolling in thick and fast but there is still plenty of time to submit your photos before the closing date on August 25.

CHRIS PACKHAM,

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D837.

- **£2,000:** 438371.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,000 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 548223, 826934, 249005, 448194, 158974, 796013, 336425, 232009, 265679, 267624, 440059, 981339, 119308, 780178, 975106, 525642, 678970, 180431, 171193, 670870.
- **£5:** 873690, 218110, 805609, 923333, 385125, 646044, 779243, 737551, 898090, 438166, 862072, 143268, 357166, 378092, 588445, 507569, 546513, 372566, 409778, 560529, 644221, 766241, 341159, 846576, 873677, 110273, 441178, 631173, 440619, 769042, 952691, 615557, 425715, 848075, 106139, 741152, 190725, 559184, 286392, 758598, 347761, 662100, 789687, 579783, 708994, 173097, 394507, 386408, 687184, 121844, 442818, 829599, 799040, 281291, 474311, 538395, 647521, 872191, 001196, 000292.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Toy and train sale at Barry Island station

Barry Island Station is hosting the next Toy and Train sale on Sunday, August 3, between 10.30am and 3pm.

It is the only event of this type at the venue in 2014, although plans are in hand for next year, owing to the popularity of the show, which is held within the buildings and on the platforms, under the large canopy.

In the meantime, the sister event, Cardiff Toy and Train Sale, will be taking place at Penarth Leisure Centre on a three-monthly basis (the next show there is on Saturday, October 11) with another show at Barry Leisure Centre on Sunday, September 28.

Barry Island Station has proved a big hit with the public in recent years and the unique atmosphere helps to create a special day alongside all of the seaside attractions on offer.

The station boasts an excellent in-house cafe and the main line station is on the same site, so visitors can travel by rail from all over the area.

The Barry Tourist Railway will also be operating their own trains during the show.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry Island attracts a great range of traders from both sides of the Severn Bridge and a wonderful array of stock is always available from all the big names such as Dinky, Cori, Matchbox, EFE, Triang, Hornby, Lima, Wrenn, Bachmann, etc.

"In the current economic climate, prices have never been keener and it is an ideal time to build up collections at budget prices.

"Traders are also very keen to buy and to exchange, so do bring along your surplus items.

"We are very grateful to John Buxton and the railway for making their excellent facilities available to us, once per year."

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT EVENT...
BARRY ISLAND
TOY & TRAIN SALE
SUNDAY, 3RD AUGUST 2014
10.30am - 3.00pm
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Hercules does exactly what it says on the tin!

by GARETH JAMIESON
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WHEN Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson swapped the wrestling ring for the film studio 13 years ago, you wouldn't have expected much to come of it.

However, all those years on, Johnson is an established talent, a franchise headliner, and often the best thing in a film.

Having carved a niche as an action star, Johnson's latest role sees him take on the character of Hercules in the unsurprisingly titled *Hercules*. Having battled the historic 12 labours, Hercules is now a mercenary for hire, along with a small band of soldiers. When Lord Cotys (John Hurt) tasks him to defeat a warlord whose ambitions are threatening his kingdom, Hercules must step back onto the battlefield to face his most dangerous challenge yet...

There is a mathematical equation (albeit unconfirmed by the intelligentsia) that suggests the presence of Dwayne Johnson in a film can improve the quality of said film by around 20 per cent. This equation comes into play again here as Hercules is a slice of undemanding entertainment that benefits from the star in the title role, dragging what could have been a run-of-the-mill 21st century swords 'n' sandals into something reasonably entertaining.

If you're looking for depth then you'll be disappointed (the closest it gets is the mysterious fate of Hercules' family which most seasoned filmgoers will clue into within five minutes), but there's enough decent spectacle – and that man Johnson – to carry the film through its running time.

Johnson has proved that he can lift moribund efforts like *GI Joe: Retaliation and Pain and Gain*, and his performance here, while not his best by a long stretch, does allow the film a greater degree of forgiveness than it would otherwise receive.

With films like *Immortals* and *Clash of the Titans* riffing on similar subject matter (and being wholly terrible), Johnson's turn proves the difference: his charisma and likeability making *Hercules* an enjoyable character to spend time with.

Ridiculously muscly, his is a performance more of physical power than acting subtlety but Johnson hits the mark – even if the script makes his character slightly dour.

There is joy to be found from the supporting cast, again delivering pleasing if slight turns, the likes of Rufus Sewell, Ian McShane (the best thing here) and John Hurt chewing scenery like they haven't been fed in months. It's the sort of performances films like this thrive on, and the quality of the cast around Johnson, and the gravitas they offer, again make it a slightly more appealing offering.

Hercules has been something of a pet project for director Brett Ratner, not that you would know from his direction. It takes its cue primarily from John Milius' *Conan*, but also the many films within this genre, and while it looks grimly stylish, yet again Ratner fails to impress anything of his own personality upon the film.

He's a director who can approximate the styles of others, but has never really established a style of his own, and while this is a criticism, his work here, much like the film itself, is decent.

The story moves in a predictable arc, despite taking a clever attitude towards the 12 labours Hercules had to endure (or did he?) which is pleasing to see; but this aside, there isn't much that comes unexpectedly, and come a climax that plods rather than soars, you're about ready to wrap things up rather than want more.

However, *Hercules* is a surprisingly decent film that makes no bones about trying to do anything more than entertain and deliver some degree of spectacle. That it does this job leaves a slightly more pleasant taste in the mouth than expected, even if it won't linger in the brain afterwards.

VERDICT: A surprisingly entertaining, testosterone-fuelled blockbuster, *Hercules* benefits from the presence of Dwayne Johnson and in knowing that it's there to entertain and nothing more. Solid and undemanding, it does what it sets out to do and nothing more. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Gladiator* (2000), *300* (2006).

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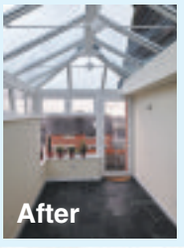
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VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

Completion date nears for project that will bring life back to Island

I WOULD like to start this month by wishing everyone a 'Happy, Sunny, School Holiday'; we have certainly been blessed with extremely good weather and I hope it lasts (or have I spoken too soon?)

I know that some of us have to work while it is so glorious, but I hope that as many people as possible are taking the opportunity to enjoy it. I know I have been unable to enjoy as much of the weather as I would like – but recently some of my cabinet colleagues and I had the opportunity of getting out to Barry Island to see what has been achieved by the council in improving the area in general.

We were pleased to see the newly refurbished artwork along the Causeway and then took the opportunity of walking along the new footpath on Friars Point, past Friars Point House and to the Old Harbour.

This used to be a dirt path, but now it's properly laid, thanks to Barry Regeneration funding, so now everyone can use it in all weathers and accessibility has improved.

Even in the short time we were there, at least two people with disabilities and their carer/family members used it, which could not have happened previously. This simple scheme has had a massive impact on people's enjoyment of the area.

At the same time, we took the opportunity of looking at other improvements made on the promenade with new hand rails on the promenade gardens steps and the refurbishment to the western shelter toilet blocks.

The old Tourist Information Centre (TIC) is being used by the Vale Council's tourism and events team and to complement that, we have asked for expressions of interest from anyone wanting to lease the vacant lower floor of the TIC building, and the old Lifeguards building on the promenade.

I look forward to the new tenants being in place as soon as possible, adding to the experience for our many visitors.

The Barry Island weekend extravaganzas, an initiative we introduced last year, have begun for the second summer season, beginning with the 'Isle of Fire'.

This was a great success and the fun continues throughout the season. I hope as many people as possible come along and enjoy themselves.

I have been on the Island for the last two weekends and the number of visitors is phenomenal.

Eastern Promenade

I WOULD like to make some comment about the Eastern Promenade project, which is much in the news. Although not yet completed, it will certainly bring life back to a part of the Island that had been semi-derelict, and it should be completed very soon.

In that regard, I am well aware of the derogatory and cynical remarks being made by opposition politicians, because this project has been delayed from its initial completion date.

However, it is easy to criticise but much more difficult to get things done, especially when unforeseen problems occur that extend the contract period and delay the finish date.

Perhaps it would be helpful to explain some of the facts and correct any false rumours:

To begin with, the project is not just about beach huts, although they are a part of the redevelopment. The beach huts are a very substantial construction of cement blocks covered in multi-coloured, wood-effect resin/plastic cladding.

These major engineering works include the relaying of new walkways down to the beach and up to Nell's Point and securing the embankments along the walkways – as well as providing a traversing climbing wall that spells out Ynys Y Barri/Barry Island and an amphitheatre – which is covered at the far end of the promenade.

But that is not all: the old 'Toy Factory' has been opened up to create a new toilet block and alongside on the promenade there will be a 'mist' water feature.

It is a very substantial project and not something that can be achieved without some unexpected difficulties and frustrating delays.

The scheme was initially delayed by the winter storms by some weeks, but that was not the main problem. The major issues were that the embankments behind the shelter and along the length of the promenade were less stable than initially assessed.

In order to ensure that the substantial concrete retaining walls, which have been cast on-site are safe, rock anchors had to be bored out to find solid rock to secure them into.

These rock anchors are actually steel rods several inches in diameter. However, in order to find solid rock to secure them into, they had to bore out holes 25 metres long (about 82 feet).

Therefore, 41 of these rock anchors had to be assembled, attached to the rock-face and then secured to the retaining walls to make them safe. That was an engineering feat in itself!

Perhaps it would be interesting to imagine how long these steel rods are – they are slightly longer than a standard two-carriage train that travels to Barry Island.

However, saying all that, I am still very frustrated and deeply disappointed at the delays to the project.

I recognise that the initial contract that was due to end in May had to reasonably be extended until July, due to the storms and the embankment issues.

It was still not completed by that date and as a result, daily penalty charges will now be due. In June and July, I again demanded a completion date and was given a final date of 11th August, which I very, very reluctantly agreed, but on the understanding that if it passed that date, the contractors had to stand up and take full responsibility.

I am hugely disappointed at these delays, but I can assure you that we are chasing the contractors on a daily basis.

Despite my annoyance, I am convinced that once the project is completed it will be a huge success and a lasting legacy.

It's very easy to complain and criticise a project. It's harder to take a decision to do something and make it happen. As the adage says, if you don't do anything then no one can complain.

As far as I am concerned I'd rather try to improve things, than sit back and do nothing. To my recollection, it is only when we are in control anything positive has happened on the Island.

I am sure that everyone will agree that this project was worth waiting for and look forward to more good news for the town in the coming weeks.

READER'S LETTER

IT is all very well in the aftermath of the Malaysian aircraft disaster, for Western politicians to call for sanctions and other punitive measures against the Russian Federation, but why no similar calls as a result of the Israeli actions in Gaza, where the death toll has already substantially exceeded that in the Ukraine?

If David Cameron and Co are genuinely outraged at the loss of 298 lives over the Ukraine, then let's hear the same condemnation of the lives lost, and still being lost, in the Gaza strip.

Christopher Short, Barry.

THE GEM SAYS...

The human tragedy of this costly war of attrition in the Middle East is that lives are being lost on both sides, and for this, as always, adversaries must share the responsibility.

The reality is that a lasting peace can surely only come through negotiation – if and when both sides finally decide to commit to it.

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BIG FILL IS BACK IN BARRY!

PART two of the Big Fill campaign got under way again when contractors visited the Dyfan ward, in Barry.

The council's hghways and maintenance team, alongside contractors, will be fixing potholes in the Illtyd ward on August 9 and 10 and in the Cadoc ward on August 23 and 24.

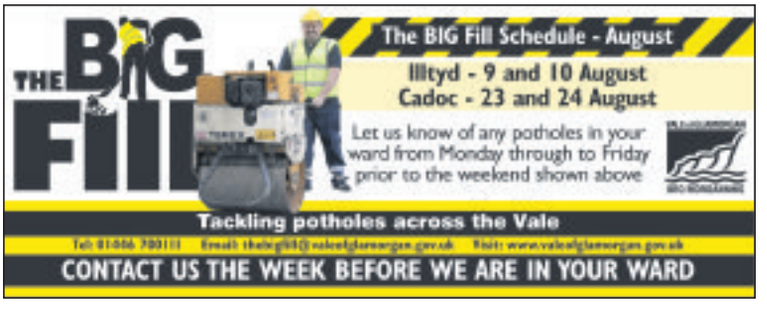
Residents are being encouraged to report any potholes in their ward by calling 01446 700111, emailing bigfill@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or using the interactive map on the Vale Council website.

Potholes will need to be reported on the Monday to Friday prior to the weekend the team will be in that ward. The Big Fill schedules can be found in the local press, on Twitter and Facebook, and on the Vale website.

Residents who are unsure of which ward they live in, can call the contact centre on 01446 700111.

Coun Rob Curtis said: "I'm really pleased to be able to launch part two of the Big Fill campaign. We've worked hard to tackle potholes across the Vale, and the Big Fill will go a long way to improve conditions of Vale roads."

On an average weekend, approximately 150 potholes are repaired in each ward. The original BIG Fill campaign saw crews fill over 3,400 extra potholes, using 320 tonnes of tarmac across all 23 Vale of Glamorgan wards.



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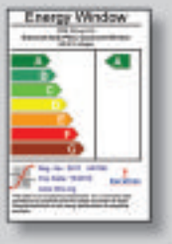

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Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

THE GATHERING STORM AND JULY CRISIS OF 1914

by GAVIN DAVIES

WHAT happened in July 1914? Was anyone responsible for causing the First World War?

Diplomacy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries created a divided Europe. France felt Germany would defeat it if there was war, and made a defensive alliance with Russia.

Britain remained independent but did hold discussions with France about providing support if war broke out.

Unfortunately, the Germans saw these agreements as attempts to surround them, forcing them to fight on two fronts.

Seeking protection, Germany became allied with Austria-Hungary – with Italy as a third, but unreliable partner. The situation was complicated by the decline of the Ottoman Empire which had allowed countries like Serbia and Bulgaria to become independent.

Serbia had expansionist ambitions to incorporate all Slavs in the Balkans which created tensions with the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which had a large Slavic minority population.

Assassination

THE trigger for the crisis was a visit by Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife Sophie, to Sarajevo in Bosnia. On Sunday, June 28, 1914, as their motorcade drove along the Appel Quay to a reception in the town hall, a bomb was thrown at their car.

It missed, exploding under the following vehicle injuring some of the passengers. The drive continued, but after the reception, the royal couple decided to visit the wounded in hospital.

General Potiorek, who was in charge of the visit, failed to tell the driver of the changed route. The car took a wrong turning, Potiorek ordered the driver to stop and reverse back round the corner.

By pure chance, this was exactly where Gavrilo Princip, the leader of the conspiracy, was waiting, doubtless depressed at the failure of his plans. Seizing this amazing opportunity, he fired his automatic at a range of a few feet, hitting both Franz Ferdinand and Sophie.

As he bled to death, Franz Ferdinand's last words were: *"Sophie, Sophie, don't die! Live for my children."* But Sophie was already dead.

All the assassins were Bosnians, but they had got weapons and training from the Black Hand, a semi-secret terrorist organisation, led by Dragutin Dimitrijević the head of Serbian military intelligence.

Although the Serbian government was probably not involved, the Austro-Hungarian government saw the murder as the ideal excuse for war against Serbia.

In particular, Conrad von Hotzendorf, the head of the army, argued for war, both for political reasons and because a victor's laurels might persuade his mistress to leave her husband and marry him.

But Tsarist Russia saw itself as the protector of Serbia. In 1905, Russia had been heavily defeated by Japan but had been rebuilding its army and, while the Austrians thought they could defeat Serbia alone, they knew they could not take on Russia as well, so sought German support.

Kaiser Wilhelm II, the ruler of Germany, had been friendly with Franz Ferdinand, though the decision to give unconditional support for any action Austria decided to take against Serbia was not a personal one but made with the agreement of his ministers.

Germany's decision to support Austria (the blank cheque) reflected their fear of being isolated and surrounded by France and Russia, and their view that, as Russia was getting steadily stronger, if war was going to come, it was better to fight in 1914 than later.

With this support, on July 23, Austria-Hungary served an ultimatum on Serbia. It had a 48-hour time limit and made demands which Serbia would not be able to accept.

When the Russian foreign minister heard the terms he said: *"It's a European war."*

From intelligence and leaks, the French and Russians were aware that the Austrians were planning to move against Serbia.

President Poincaré happened to be on a state visit to Russia and made it clear to Tsar Nicholas's advisors that they could rely on French support against Austria. Why? France had no major interest in Serbia, but it had a very real interest in ensuring Russian support if there was a war with Germany.

Mobilisation

FOR Britain, the assassination and later developments all seemed very far away and, anyway, we had our own crisis over the Irish Home Rule Bill.

Objections from Protestant Ulster had created the possibility of civil war in Ireland, which could even have resulted in parts of the British Army refusing to obey the government.

Events now moved quickly. On July 25, Serbia rejected the Austrian ultimatum and mobilised its army. The French started to prepare for mobilisation, Austria rejected a Russian appeal to extend the deadline and everyone rejected a British proposal for mediation.

On July 28, Austria declared war on Serbia.

On July 29, the Austrians actually bombarded Belgrade. In Russia, the Tsar ordered parts of the army to mobilise against Austria. He was told this was impossible as no plans existed for partial mobilisation.

The following day, the Tsar agreed to full mobilisation commencing on July 31. This threatened Germany, who had a common frontier with Poland, then part of Russia. The Germans started to prepare to mobilise.

This was serious. For Russia, Austria and Serbia mobilisation did not necessarily mean war, but Germany's plans for war were for an automatic progression from mobilisation to the concentration of its armies and to surprise attacks on Luxembourg and the Belgian fortress of Liége. ***The clock was ticking...***

On July 31, Austria ordered mobilisation. Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, asked both France and Germany if they would respect Belgian neutrality in the event of war. The French agreed. The Germans did not reply.

The next day, Germany and France started full mobilisation and Germany declared war on Russia. On August 2, Germany served an ultimatum on Belgium demanding free passage for German troops and made vague promises of compensation at French expense when the war was won.

On August 3, Germany declared war on France and, when the Belgians rejected German demands, attacked Liége.

On August 4, Britain demanded that the Germans withdraw from Belgium and, when they did not, declared war on Germany at 11pm British (midnight German) time.

The World War had started.

Then on August 6, Austria declared war on Russia and, finally, at the end of August, Japan declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary. ***Now the whole world was involved.***

WHO WAS TO BLAME?

WHO caused the war? It is not clear that Germany actually caused the war although their 'blank cheque' to Austria could be said to have allowed it to happen.

Certainly France's fear of facing Germany without Russian support, and Germany's fear of being isolated if Austria did not support them against France and Russia could also be said to have been triggers.

Perhaps the real problem was that none of the politicians or soldiers realised the nature of the war which was to come, and were prepared to fight rather than give up their national interests.

Should they be blamed for their lack of foresight? I leave it to you to decide.

Research on Dinas Powys men who fell

TO mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War on August 4, 1914, research has been undertaken to discover more about the 36 local men named on the memorial in Dinas Powys, who sacrificed their lives in the war.

A 50-page colour booklet has been produced, showing the results of the research – where the men lived, their regiments, where they fought, and where they died and are buried, or remembered.

The oldest was aged 52 and the youngest just 14 years old.

Two more men have been identified whose names were omitted from the memorial, and the local branch of the Royal British Legion has agreed with the Community Council that their names be added.

The booklet is currently on sale at post offices and other shops in Dinas Powys, priced £4.99.

In addition, the British Legion is organising a ceremony at the memorial on the Twyn at 10.45am on Monday, August 4 to mark the occasion, when the names and details of the 38 men who gave their lives will be read out.

On the afternoon of August 4, at 1.30pm, a presentation will be made in Lee Hall, Dinas Powys, using pictures and music to tell the stories of the men from Dinas Powys and Michaelston who went to war in 1914-18 and who did not come home.

DEREK BRUSHETT

ABOVE: The memorial in the centre of Dinas Powys.

ABOVE; The Devonshire Cemetery at Mametz, where two Dinas Powys men, Bill French and Richard Kitch, are buried.

Porthcawl and the Great War

COME to Porthcawl on August 2-3 to help us to mark the centenary of the Great War 1914 – 1918.

Saturday highlights include - Porthcawl and the Great War exhibition at Porthcawl museum; exhibitions and period displays by local societies at the Y Centre; illustrated half-hour talks throughout the day; amateur radio broadcasting to the world and Morse code demonstrations; research your family history with Glamorgan Family History Society; meet a 1914 recruiting sergeant and join up for the day; street events in period costume throughout the day.

Join us by dressing in period costume. Prizes for the best costumes. The exhibition at the museum and the Y Centre, John Street will open at 10am and close at 4.30pm.

The day will end with a commemorative service at the War Memorial, All Saint's Church, Porthcawl. Also on Sunday, August 3 the Lions' Vintage Fair at Porthcawl Rugby Club is being held to coincide with the commemorations, 10am-4pm.

LAST LETTER HOME...

A GEM reader would like to share the final letter of Corporal Frank Burke, 10th Battalion, South Wales Borderers, sent to his elder brother Charles on October 16, 1918.

The letter belongs to Dave Walsh of Cardiff, who explains: "Frank was my grandmother's brother and, as a child, I saw the original, but children don't always understand.

"I do hope this poignant memory may be shared with others."

Frank wrote:

"We've just had a turn in the front line and I'm caked with mud from head to foot but I feel as fit as a fiddle. It seems to me that they're anxious to decorate somebody in this Batt: as I've just been recommended again, that making it twice in eight days. The first do was worth something as I did a bit of good work when we tackled Fritz on the eighth... the second do was nothing more than a bit of patrol work, which is my hobby.

"You'd laugh (if) you could see me sometimes walking by night in no-man's-land with a big Ger pistol in my fist, looking for anything I can find.

"I find that the neutral ground between the lines is a fine place to work and I've formed the habit of placing a junior in charge and finding all I can on my own...

"Well, dear brother of mine, whether I survive or not, I'm glad to think that you'll never have reason to be ashamed of me and I don't want you to be sorry if it should happen if I go West before the war ends. I've had a good time, proved myself to my own satisfaction and settled with the Boche for a good few things. In that do on the morning of the 8th I squared matters for a good many things and, although I took 23 Gers off my own bat, I was called a bloody murderer by one of my own men.

"Of course he only called it half in fun but it will give you some idea how I carried on...

"Whatever Fritz does now, he can never get his own back from me and if I pass out, I go happily, for my work is done and my oath is kept. Don't get grieved if I get knocked out. I've lived my 'crowded hour' and you can remember me, if not with pride, at least without shame or regret."

Frank was killed the following day.

This item was contributed by Jo Barratt of Cowbridge, great-niece of Cpl Frank Burke.

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

PENARTH PUPILS' RESEARCH IS PART OF NEW WELSH APP...

FOUR LOCAL MEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE GREAT WAR

by ***Jack DeClaire, Callum Smith, Abigail Hallum and Josie Vincent-Newson.***

AS part of the preparation for the 'Wales at War' App being developed with the Welsh Government, Dr Jonathan Hicks, headteacher of St Cyres School in Penarth, set four of his pupils the challenge of discovering the stories behind four local casualties in the Great War, one from each branch of the Services.

Here are the results of their research...

Ernest Denman was the third mate aboard the *SS Narragansett*, a 9,196 gross ton tanker with her engines amidships.

She was built by Scott's Shipbuilding and Engineering Co of Glasgow/Greenock, in 1903 for the Anglo-American Oil Co, and was the largest and fastest (11 knots) tanker afloat at the time.

On May 7, 1915, she was attacked by a submarine south of Ireland, but the torpedo missed. However, she sank with the loss of all hands (the captain plus 45 crew) on March 16, 1917 when she was hit by a German torpedo.

The vessel was sunk by German u-boat U-44, commanded by Paul Wagenfuhr, about 400 miles west of the Scilly Islands.

The *Narragansett's* final voyage was from New York to London, carrying a cargo of lubricating oil. On a previous occasion, Wagenfuhr's u-boat had sunk a British vessel, ordered the surviving crew onto the deck of his submarine and instructed his crew to destroy the lifeboats. After two miles' sailing he then submerged, drowning most of the helpless sailors.

Ernest was the son of Emily Denman of 32 Grove Place and had been born in Penarth. He was 23 and is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London.

On August 2, 1917, the U-44 was rammed by *HMS Oracle* off southern Norway with the loss of all hands.

Ordinary Signalman **Charles Kirby** was killed in May 1916, aged 18, at the Battle of Jutland – the major engagement between the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet off the coast of Denmark.

The son of Miriam Kirby, of 11, Amherst Crescent, Barry, and the late Edward Hely Kirby, he was killed aboard *HMS Defence*, a 14,300 ton cruiser which was hit by shells fired by the German flagship *Friedrich der Grosse* as she sped in to attack the damaged German light cruiser *Wiesbaden*.

Her forward magazines detonated and she disappeared in a column of smoke taking 903 men with her, including Rear Admiral Sir Robert Arbuthnot, leaving behind nothing but bits of floating wreckage. Charles Kirby was just 18 years old. He is remembered on the Barry Island School Memorial.

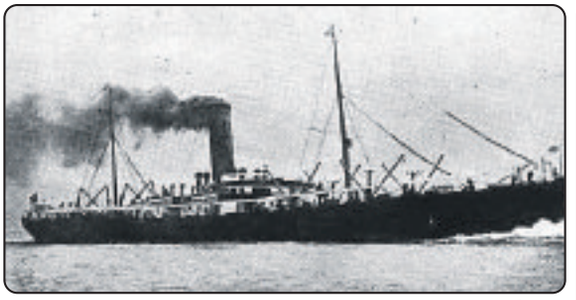
Second Lieutenant **Albert Payne**, Royal Flying Corps, the son of Mr and Mrs G Payne, 34, Travis Street, Barry Dock, met with a fatal accident on Sunday, January 13 when making a trial flight from Hendon (where he was stationed) to Ipswich. The machine dived downwards and caught fire.

The deceased young officer enlisted in Canada, where he had been for some years. He went to France two years before, but was wounded and discharged, and stationed at the head offices of the Canadian Government in London, after which he joined the RFC.

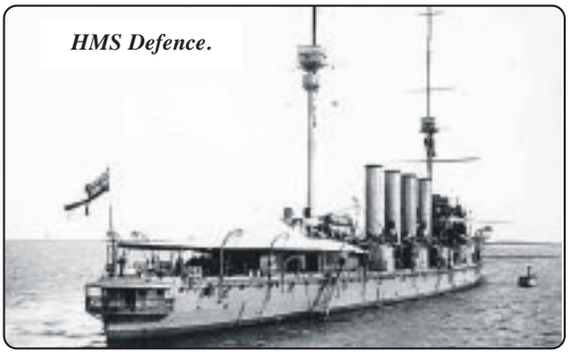
Lt Payne was educated at Holton Road Council School, Barry Dock. He had a brother, Sgt WJ Payne in the Army Service Corps, and two brothers-in- law serving, each of whom had been mentioned in dispatches and granted the Meritorious Service Medal.

The full story of the accident was told at the inquest at Hendon on the body of the late Lt Payne and on Francis Harry Varney Vise, (22), the pilot, who was making the flight with Lt Payne.

Captain Sevinbright said that Vise was an experienced pilot, although he was flying a machine that he had never flown before. He had, however, flown one which was very similar, and the slight differences were pointed out to him before the flight.



ABOVE: Ernest Denman served aboard the SS Narragansett.



HMS Defence.

Witnesses learnt that the two men reached an altitude of 1,500 ft and then descended to about around 1,000 ft. He believed that the machine stalled on the turn. The climatic conditions were not against flying.

Captain Clear of the Manchester Regiment, attached to the School of Instruction, said that he saw most of the flight.

The machine was taken off the ground steeply and when 100 ft up it made a turn and flew at a height of 800ft. It then made a left hand turn, got into a spin and fell. The petrol tank burst and caught alight through the machine striking the ground and not during the course of descent. He could not account for the accident. It was stated that the engine was examined before the machine left the ground and was perfectly satisfactory.

On January 25, Albert Payne's funeral took place at Barry Cemetery, the Rev J Mydyr Evans, Ty-newydd Road, Congregational Church, officiating.

The funeral was attended by a large number of officers and men of the Royal Flying Corps stationed at Hendon and the body was borne to the grave on a gun carriage covered with floral wreaths, and the solemn strains of the 'Dead March' in 'Saul', played by the Regimental Band.

The body had been conveyed from Hendon to the home of the deceased's parents at Travis Street, Barry Dock. He was interred with full military honours and the lengthy cortege as it passed through the streets on its way to the local cemetery was the object of profound sympathy and respect, and many were affected at the knowledge of so sad an end to such a gallant soldier.

Eight officers and about 40 men from the Lancashire Fusiliers and about 50 officers and men from the RFC attended, and the local band played the dead march during the progress of the cortege to the cemetery.

The body was conveyed on a carriage and covered by the Union Jack and a wealth of handsome floral tributes from comrades and friends. Among the numerous wreaths was one from the officers of the School of Instruction, Hendon.

Samuel George Pearse is one of two Penarthians to have won the Victoria Cross. He was born on July 16, 1897 at Penarth. In 1911 his family moved to Victoria in Australia. He joined the Australian Army in July 1915, aged 18, and served at Gallipoli, the Battle of the Somme and at Passchendaele.

Pearse had a chequered military career, being court-martialled and reduced to the ranks. He went absent without leave on several occasions, was wounded on the Somme and yet, as part of the 1st Machine Gun Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force he won the Military Medal during the fighting around Passchendaele (the Third Battle of Ypres).

He was discharged from the army in July 1919 but joined the 45th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers who were then ordered to Russia. The North Russian Relief Force had been formed to protect allied supplies which were being sent to the White Russian forces then engaged in a struggle against the Russian Revolutionaries of the Red Army.

On August 29, 1919, north of the village of Emtsa, a village on the Archangel to Vologda railway line, he cut his way through enemy barbed wire under very heavy rifle and machine gun fire. He thus cleared a way for the troops to enter an enemy battery position.

Seeing that a blockhouse was holding up the advance, Pearse charged the blockhouse single-handed and killed the occupants with grenades. He was killed a few minutes later and is now buried in the Obozerskaya Burial Ground. He is also commemorated on a special memorial in Archangel Allied Cemetery.

ABOVE: A monument to Samuel George Pearse VC. BELOW: Samuel George Pearse.

ABOVE: Ernest Denman.

ABOVE: Albert Payne.

ABOVE: Albert Payne (left).

Dinas remembers

ON Monday, August 4 at 11am, there will be a short service at the War Memorial on the Twyn, Dinas Powys, organised by Dinas Powys Branch of the British Legion, during which the names of those from Dinas Powys and Michaelston-le-pit who died between 1914 and 1918 will be read out.

Music will be provided by the Ecumenical Seven. The service will be followed by refreshments in Lee Hall.

On the same afternoon at 2 pm on August 4, Mr Derek Brushett will be at the DPVC Community Club in Lee Hall, Britway Road, to tell the stories of the 36 men from our community who gave their lives for their country.

Please come and join us for this fascinating talk. The community club is open to all and refreshments will be served from 1.30pm.

On Saturday, August 9, Murchfield Community Cinema, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys, will be presenting the classic film *Oh What a Lovely War.* Doors open at 7pm and tickets are available from the Local Post Offices (£4 in advance) or on the door for £5.

Oh! What A Lovely War summarises and comments on the events of World War One using popular songs of the time.

The film is based upon a 1961 Radio play, *The Long Long Trail*, originated by Charles Chilton.

There is humour, sadness and a very moving end.

Do come and take the opportunity to see this iconic film as it should be seen – on a big screen in a cinema setting.

Refreshments are always available at all Murchfield Community Cinema presentations.

JOHN FANSHAW

GEM commemoration Part Two: next week

THE GEM would like to thank the people who contributed pieces to our commemoration of the First World War. Next week we will carry more contributions from the Vale and Bridgend county areas.

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

A First World War Vale connection to Australia

VIGNACOURT British Cemetery at Amiens, the Somme, northern France, has a poignant Barry-Australia link and a visit to the World War One cemetery in 2012 provided Barry Male Voice choristers with a stark reminder of the horror, waste and sadness of the war.

Chorister John Shewring, now living in Dinas Powys and formerly of 9 George Street, Barry Dock, was to be the first family member to visit the grave of his great uncle, Lance Corporal James Leay, who was killed in action aged 23 years in one of the last battles of World War One.

James, a sailor and stepson of Arthur and Ada Annie Cutler of 11 George Street, Barry Dock, served in France with the 17th Battalion of the Australian Infantry after enlisting at the agricultural ground, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia in 1915.

His address recorded upon enlistment was '11 George Street, Barry Dock, Glenmorganshire, England'. His pay was five shillings a day.

The 17th battalion was involved in deperate fighting in the defence of Amiens, which eventually stopped a last, determined attempt by the Germans to break through Allied lines.

James was wounded by a shell on August 9 and died of his wounds on August 17, 1918, at the 20th casualty clearing station, less than three months before the war ended.

The Cutler family taken in the lane at the rear of George Street, Barry Dock, in around 1951.

The vital role of the Australian forces is reflected in the casualty list; of the 524 casualties buried in Vignacourt British cemetery, a total of 424 headstones are Australian.

James Leay's name is commemorated on the roll of honour at the Australian war memorial, situated in the capital city of Australia, Canberra and also on the roll of honour in the Memorial Hall Barry.

Vignacourt British cemetery is unique in that it contains a statue of a French soldier, on the base of which are engraved the words: *'Frères d'armes de l'Armée Britannique, tombés au Champ d'Honneur, dormez en paix, Nous veillons sur vous' – Brothers in arms of the British Army, fallen on the field of honour, sleep in peace, We are watching over you.'*

The Vignacourt British Cemetery.

Lance Corporal James Leay.

Cowbridge Museum commemoration

COWBRIDGE Museum will commemorate the First World War with a display of World War One items and memories on September 5-6. Entry is free.

The display will contain a small section about the Cowbridge based Haywood family who had 11 adult children on active service, and other items will relate specifically to Cowbridge and more generally to the UK.

Taking its title 'Keep the Home Fires Burning', from the popular song by Cardiff-born Ivor Novello, it will look at home life "while the lads are far from home."

PR

Bridgend tribute to Great War heroes

ABOVE: Pupils from Tondu Primary School take a close look at the new mosaics in Aberkenfig square.

New mosaics to mark the centenary of the First World War have been installed in Aberkenfig, thanks to a Newcastle Higher Community Council project involving three local primary schools.

A NEW tribute to the sacrifices made by Bridgend County Borough's war heroes has been unveiled in Aberkenfig.

Three colourful mosaics designed by local schoolchildren, have been installed in the village square, to mark the centenary of the First World War.

In a project sponsored by Newcastle Higher Community Council, the children from Tondu Primary School, St Roberts Catholic Primary School and Penyfai CIW Primary School, came up with the designs after they learned about the First World War in their classrooms.

Artist Justine Stroud, of Primary Colours, then created the mosaics and they now stand proudly in the square.

Coun Derek Baker from Newcastle Higher Community Council said: "We are very pleased that this project came to fruition, as it is something that we have been passionate about and worked on over many years.

"The children came up with excellent ideas for the mosaics and we hope that they will be enjoyed by the local community. The mosaics will stand here for up to four years, after which they will be placed in their respective schools."

Coun Baker added: "This has been the Community Council's biggest project by far and we are already looking forward to 2018, when we will be producing further mosaics to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War."

Bridgend County Borough's Mayor Gary Thomas and Janice Gregory, AM for Ogmore, were both present for the official unveiling of the mosaics, and Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "In this year more than any other it is vital for us to teach our young people about the past and commemorate the contribution of our Armed Forces during the First World War.

"Children from three local primary schools have spent a lot of time researching the war and their wonderful designs provide a fitting tribute.

"I'm sure that the children will all be extremely proud of their involvement when they look back on what they have produced in the years to come."

St Brides Major Remembers

A WORLD War One commemoration will be held on Monday, August 4, at the War Memorial in St Brides Major, to commemorate the fallen of St Brides Major, Southerndown, and Ogmore-by-Sea.

It will start at 7pm, with a service being led by the Venerable Philip Morris and accompanied by the Ogmore Silver Band.

Following the service, the band will be playing contemporary tunes, and teas and coffees will be served in the church hall at St Brides. All are welcome.

Commemorating the centenary of the First World War

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Memorial gates honour the heroes of both world wars

PICTURED (left to right): Warrant Officer Kelvin Oatridge, Mr Robert Clark (War Veteran), Coun Mr Guy Ingram , Coun Mr Mick Mason (Town Mayor), Mr Jim Morgan (War Veteran and representative from the Royal British Legion) and Flight Lieutenant Robert Wagg.

THERE is very little recorded evidence on the Sea View Memorial Gates at Llantwit Major; however, looking back at old parish council minutes and talking to local residents, it is understood the gates were originally made after the Second World War, to remember those who lost their lives in both World Wars.

At the end of World War Two, many residents of Llantwit Major gave a shilling toward the refurbishment of the War Memorial Cross.

On completion of the refurbishment, there was money left over, so it was decided to have the memorial gates made. The gates were made by RAF St Athan.

On their completion, the council could not decide where to put the gates, so they remained in one of the council buildings for many years! In October 1977, Sea View Park was dedicated to Llantwit Major by George Wimpey and Co Ltd.

The land was transferred to Llantwit Major Town Council, under the condition that it be kept as a public open space.

It was then decided the gates should be installed at the entrance to the Sea View Park from Colhugh Street.

This year, to commemorate the centenary of World War One, the town council had the gates repaired, galvanised and repainted to mark this special event.

Representatives from RAF St Athan, Royal British Legion, the Town Mayor and a local councillor attended to mark the completion of this project and to remember those who lost their lives in both World Wars.

Alexandra Park achieves 'Centenary Field' status

ABOVE: Roy Noble (centre) alongside Mayor Howard Hamilton.

BROADCASTER Roy Noble and the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Howard Hamilton recently unveiled Alexandra Park as an official 'Centenary Field'.

The opening, held on July 17, comes after the official launch of the Centenary Fields project by the Duke of Cambridge in Coventry.

The Centenary Fields project, led by the UK charity Fields in Trust in partnership with The Royal British Legion, aims to protect war memorial fields, parks and green spaces created in memory of those who lost their lives during World War One.

Ivor Morgan, chairman of Fields in Trust Cymru said: "Centenary Fields is a fitting and unique way of marking the sacrifices made by Servicemen and women 100 years ago in World War One.

"We are delighted that the Vale Council is the first local authority in Wales to protect space as a Centenary Field and we call upon all other authorities in Wales to follow the Vale's lead and protect more spaces over the next four years to create this living legacy."

Coun Neil Moore said: "The council and cabinet fully support this initiative that recognises the ultimate sacrifice made by service personnel.

"It will also add to the protection of this valuable park in Penarth signifying the centenary of World War One. I was delighted to assist The Fields in Trust in creating this legacy for future generations."

In 1924, the Cenotaph, by Cardiff-born sculptor and medallist Sir William Goscombe John, was erected in memory of those who lost their lives in the First World War – and some years later, the Garden of Remembrance and topiary work were added.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH TO HONOUR ITS HEROES

THIRTY-THREE members of the Barry Church of St Paul's lost their lives on active service in the First World War and a number of others who served in the armed forces, survived the conflict.

The names of all those who fell are recorded in St Paul's War Memorial porch and St Paul's Rector Robert Parrish is inviting relatives of those who lost their lives to write to him with any family memories of these heroes from one hundred years ago.

Father Robert hopes family representatives will be able to attend a special memorial service at St Paul's on Remembrance Sunday, November 9 (at 10am).

One member of St Paul's who returned home from service in World War One was Albert Sylvester, a member of the family who ran a well-known decorating business in Barry.

Today, nephews Terry, David and Donald still run the Silver Star Decorating and DIY Centre on Barry Docks. They have played prominent roles in Sully Centurions Cricket Club and the preservation and operation of the pleasure steamers *Waverley* and *Balmoral*.

Albert Sylvester was a choir boy and scout master at St Paul's. He was gassed in the trenches and awarded the Military Medal 'For Bravery in the Field'. Presented with the MM at his former school in High Street in June 1918, Mr Sylvester, in responding to Mr G Wareham, chairman of Barry Urban District Council, said he hoped that the children of High Street School would never have to go and do the same.

Albert died in Cheltenham in his early 60s having suffered for much of his life from the effects of poison gas.

These are the names recorded on the Roll of Honour of the members of St Paul's Church, Barry, who lost their lives in World War One:

Harry Butler, Frederick Burton, Sidney George Bedingfield, Harry Churchill, Maurice Cater, Harold Chamen, John Davies, Percy Edwards, David Charles Grant, James Hutton, Roger Heath, Oswald Hulin, Claude Harding, Paget George Irvine, Christopher Kilby, Harry Jarret Littlehales, William May, Herbert May, Harold Marsh, John Percival Marshall, Arthur Nash, Ernest Phillips, Frederick Bush Parker, Ivor Prince, Cyril Gilmore Stevens, William Smith, Francis Spencer, John Streeter, Fred Streeter, Thomas Davies Williams, Harry Weaver, Victor Wraithman, Eric Whitehouse.

• Surviving relatives are invited to write to Father Robert Parrish, Rector of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan Churches at 10, Buttrills Road, Barry, and to the Editor of The GEM, at the address given on page 2 of this week's issue.

ST AUGUSTINE'S, PENARTH LEADS COMMEMORATION

FLASHBACK; Armed forces attend the first Dedication.

The newly restored Roll of Honour.

ON August 4, 1914, one of the most horrific wars of all time began.

In one way or another, World War One affected every community across Britain. In Penarth, over 300 men lost their lives, many were injured and countless families were devastated by the death or injury of a close relative.

Organisations across the town are organising different events to recall the sacrifices made by so many.

Some are very personal, others are bringing to mind specific aspects of the war, but the Service of Commemoration on Sunday, August 3 at St Augustine's Church is an event at which the whole community can come together for a joint act of remembrance.

The service starts at 10.30am and will be attended by the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck, Stephen Doughty MP, the mayors of Penarth and the Vale, and representatives of the Armed Forces, the Police and many local voluntary organisations.

Most importantly, also present will be relatives and friends of those named on the recently-restored Roll of Honour, which is situated in St Augustine's and lists 207 men from Penarth who died in World War One.

The service will be led by Canon Roger Williams and the address given by the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Revd Barry Morgan. Richard James, chairman of the local branch of the British Legion, has been involved in the preparation for the service; a Legion member will carry the standard and another will play the Last Post.

During the service, the Roll of Honour will be re-dedicated. The Roll has been restored and enough money raised to ensure that the history of the Roll and those named on it will be recorded for perpetuity. The Friends of St Augustine's, who organised the restoration, received grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and The War Memorial Trust.

Generous donations and fund raising events also added to the fund.

Jennifer Stewart, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales said: "In this, First World War Centenary year, HLF is supporting many community led projects that are helping us all to learn more about the heritage of the First World War and the impact that it had on our communities.

"I am delighted that we have been able to support this project in Penarth through our new small grants programme and ensure the Roll of Honour is restored."

The service of commemoration has been organised jointly by the parish, the Royal British Legion, and the Friends of St Augustine's.

All those involved very much hope that anyone wanting to pay their respects to those who died, and those who were injured, will come and join them on August 3, at 10.30am in St Augustine's.

Tricia Griffiths

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2014

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 32,33 & 35 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to provide parking places at the location specified in the Schedule below.

2. Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Visible Services & Housing (Ref.T/13/153/DJH) in writing by 21st August 2014 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Off Street Parking Places) Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE

Proposed Car Park Charging and Enforcement – Daily 08.00 to 23.00

Appendix: Nells Point Barry Island

PAYMENT PARKING PLACES

Classes of vehicles: 1. Registered Disabled vehicles 2. Motor cars 3. Buses / Coaches 4. Solo Motorcycle

Name of Parking Place	Class of Vehicle	Hours & days of operation of Parking Place	Max Period for which a vehicle may wait	Scale of Charges for Parking Place
Nell's Point, Station Approach Road, Barry Island	1,2 & 4 3 by arrangement only	08:00 – 23:00 every day	15 hours	**From 15 March – 30 September** **(08:00 – 23:00 hours)*** ***Evening rate applies when parking after 16.00 hours** 0-2 Hours £2:00 2 plus Hours £5:00 Buses / Coaches £10:00 Disabled FREE Solo Motorcycle FREE **(16:00 – 23:00 hours) * Evening rate** 0-7 Hours £2:00 Disabled FREE Buses / Coaches £5.00 Solo Motorcycle FREE
	1,2 & 4 3 by arrangement only	08:00 – 23:00 every day	15 hours	**From 1 October – 14 March** **(08:00 – 23:00 hours)** 0-15 Hours FREE Buses / Coaches FREE Disabled FREE Solo Motorcycle FREE

Dated this 31st day of July 2014

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (MANNAU PARCIO ODDI AR Y STRYD)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 32,33 a 35 a Rhan IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004, a phob pŵer galluogi arall yn gwneud Gorchymyn. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn hwnnw fydd darparu mannau parcio yn y lleoliad sydd wedi'i nodi yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn drwy fynd i'r cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Os oes gennych unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig, dylech anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai (Cyf. T/13/153/DJH) erbyn 21 Awst 2014 gan nodi'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

3. Dylai'r sawl sy'n gwrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn a gynigiwyd gofio bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor hwn, o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985, i sicrhau bod pob ymateb a gaiff i'r gorchymyn dan sylw ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei astudio.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Parcio oddi ar y Stryd) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013

ATODLEN

Cynigiwyd codi a gorfodi taliadau am barcio bob dydd rhwng 8.00 a 23.00

Atodiad: Nells Point, Ynys Y Barri

MANNAU PARCIO A THALIADAU

Mathau o gerbydau: 1. Cerbydau wedi'u cofrestru ar gyfer pobl anabl 2. Moduron 3. Bysiau / Coetsis 4. Beiciau Modur unigol

Man Parcio	Math o gerbyd	Oriau a dyddiau darparu'r man parcio	Nifer yr oriau y caiff cerbyd aros	Graddfa daliadau
Nell's Point, Station Approach Road, Ynys Y Barri	1,2 a 4 3 drwy drefnu'n unig	08:00 – 23:00 Bob dydd	15 awr	**15 Mawrth – 30 Medi** **(08:00 – 23:00)*** ***Codir taliadau nos ar ôl 16.00** 0-2 awr £2:00 Dros 2 awr £5:00 Bysiau / Coetsis £10:00 Anabl AM DDIM Beiciau Modur unigol AM DDIM **(16:00 – 23:00) * Taliadau nos** 0-7 awr £2:00 Anabl AM DDIM Bysiau / Coetsis £5.00 Beiciau Modur unigol AM DDIM
	1,2 a 4 3 drwy drefnu'n unig	08:00 – 23:00 Bob dydd	15 hours	**1 Hydref – 14 Mawrth** **(08:00 – 23:00)** 0-15 awr AM DDIM Bysiau / Coetsis AM DDIM Anabl AM DDIM Beiciau Modur unigol AM DDIM

Dyddiedig 31 Gorffennaf 2014.

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau,
Gwenfô CF5 6AA

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 4) ORDER 2014

1. Notice is given that the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and of all other enabling powers proposes to make an Order, the general effect of which is to amend the parking places at the locations specified in the Schedule below.

2. Full details of the proposals, may be inspected at the address shown below during normal office hours and any objections you may have to this proposal must be submitted to the Director of Visible Services & Housing (Ref.IF743) in writing by 21st August 2014 and must contain the grounds upon which you object.

3. Persons objecting to the proposed Order are advised that in view of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 this Council is legally obliged to make any comments received in response to the proposed Order open to public inspection.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE

Insert New Map Schedule - No Waiting 9am to 6pm 1st April to 30th September

St Brides Way, Barry.

On the southern side of St Brides Way from a point 30metres from its junction with Ewenny Close in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 310 metres.

Dated this 31st day of July 2014

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 4) (GWAHARDD MANNAU AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Hysbysir trwy hyn y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124, a Rhan IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig y Ffyrdd 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004, a phob pŵer galluogi arall, yn gwneud Gorchymyn. Diben cyffredinol y Gorchymyn hwnnw fydd newid y mannau parcio yn y lleoliadau sydd wedi'u nodi yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Cewch weld y cynigion llawn drwy fynd i'r cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Os oes gennych unrhyw wrthwynebiad i'r cynnig, dylech anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai (Cyf. IF743) erbyn 21 Awst 2014, gan nodi'ch rhesymau dros ei wrthwynebu.

3. Dylai'r sawl sy'n gwrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn a gynigiwyd gofio bod dyletswydd gyfreithiol ar y cyngor hwn, o dan Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol (Hawl i Wybodaeth) 1985, i sicrhau bod pob ymateb a gaiff i'r gorchymyn dan sylw ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei astudio.

Bydd y gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwyddo a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio 2013.

ATODLEN

Cynnwys Atodlen Fap Newydd – Gwahardd Aros rhwng 9am a 6pm 1 Ebrill – 30 Medi

St Brides Way, Y Barri.

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Dyddiedig 31 Gorffennaf 2014

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenfô CF5 6AA.

'Extreme history' captured interest of students

Probus Club of Dinas Powys.

ON July 22, Mr Phil Carradice spoke to the club on the subject 'History – like your teacher never told you'.

Trained as a teacher, Phil realised that to teach children history, it had to be made interesting and told like a story.

He grew up in Pembroke Dock at a time when the radio was the focal point of the family.

Phil's favourite programme was 'Journey Into Space' and this started his interest in stories. He and his father had weekly competitions to see who could write the best poem, with a 10 shilling prize for the winner.

As his father was the sole judge, Phil never won, until one week when his father was so impressed with his poem that he gave Phil £1.

Phil never confessed that he had copied it from a Biggles book.

A teaching post took Phil to the assessment centre for Delinquent Children in Penarth.

The children had little interest in learning because of the way lessons were being taught.

So he began to start any lesson with a factual story, preferably fairly horrific if possible, to appeal to their natural instincts for that sort of thing, and then developed it into a history lesson.

For example, his account of the execution of the Duke of Monmouth in 1687 after his defeat at the Battle of Sedgemoor, when the axe-man needed six attempts to remove the duke's head.

Similarly, Marie Antoinette's lips were alleged to be moving for ten seconds after she lost her head.

Once the class realised that history was real and did actually happen, they took more interest in the lecture about the times leading up to these events.

As an introduction to the horrors of the Second World War, Phil would first give an account of the death of Reinhardt Heydrich, a brutal German officer who had become known as the 'Butcher of Prague' due to his treatment of the citizens.

British spies attempted an assassination but the bomb only exploded under Heyrich's car.

However, the horsehair stuffing from the car's upholstery penetrated his body so deeply that doctors could not save him.

Phil has always been keen to separate facts from fiction, although he acknowledges that the facts should never get in the way of a good story.

For example, King Harold was not killed by an arrow in the eye, this error is the result of a misunderstanding of the Bayeux tapestry .

He was pulled from his horse and hacked to death by the French knights who cut off his hands and feet and sent them to his mother.

Despite the fact that almost every account we read claims that Dylan Thomas was an alcoholic, he gave that impression because he liked being in pubs, playing to an audience.

It wasn't until he went to America that he began to drink heavily, probably due to depression.

His inquest found no evidence of liver damage or the like, the principal cause of death was connected to his asthmatic condition and the drugs administered by an American doctor.

Phil stressed the importance of studying history in the hope that the world would learn from its past mistakes although he doesn't see much evidence of that happening.

The vote of thanks was given by Marshall Anderson.

Charles Rees

WHAT'S ON - In brief

Mediumship

AN evening of mediumship takes place on August 4 at Barry national Spiritualist Church and centre in Buttrills Road, with Mike and Jackie Phillips at 7pm. Pay at the door £4.

USC elections

ON September 2 at the United Services Club, Tondu Road, Bridgend, members are invited to the election of officers and committee for 2014/2015.

Contact Andrew Reekie, honorary secretary Bridgend Branch, 3 Bryn-Deri, Bridgend, CF31 4EN.

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DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, inspires you with her regular column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria reveals how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

Sowing the sporting seed!

THE Commonwealth Games in Glasgow is very much in the news this week and it looks like Wales is bringing home plenty of medals.

Welsh rhythmic gymnast Frankie Jones hit the high spot when she won Wales' first gold medal and three silver medals. Now that is inspirational!

Competing for Team Wales are 232 athletes, with athletics and aquatics commanding the largest entry, mainly because there is such a variety of activities within each of those sports.

Another interesting fact is that Team Wales included twins, siblings and husband and wife duos, which goes to prove that your chosen sport can also be a family affair.

Families are at the heart of the Mini Burn series which is a great way to encourage youngsters to have a go at a variety of activities with the great encouragement of dad or even grandad alongside.

The next Mini Burn event at Margam Park is on Saturday, October 11, and is open to all family members; the only qualifier is a sense of adventure! You can enter on line now.

There is nothing better than introducing children at a young age to as many sports as possible so they can find their own individual niche. They have wonderful flexible bodies ready to tackle anything, and making sport part of their day is not only brilliant for their health and development, but it also offers them a window to future personal achievements.

If they make it to a team, county or national level that is brilliant, but more important is that sport is woven into their lives early on, which guarantees a healthy life and lots of fun in the future.

You don't necessarily have to leave your back garden to introduce your children to the thrill of sport.

How about setting up a simple obstacle course?

Long jumps and high jumps only require some string and two garden chairs to tie to and for a good sprint set out plastic toys or bottles in a row for them to run in and out of.

Balls, hula hoops, skipping ropes, a plank to run along and even a large piece of tarpaulin for them to crawl under are everyday items that can be incorporated into an obstacle course.

Have fun in the sun, be safe and protect your skin. For more inspiration log onto www.burnseries.co.uk/.

Topstak scores hole in one at Senior Open

ABOVE: Skewered baby potatoes roasting on the Big Green Egg.

VALE-based company Topstak wowed guests with a succulent BBQ cooked on the 'Big Green Egg' at a private function during Royal Porthcawl Golf Club's Senior Open Championships at the weekend.

Local chef Ffion Jones served pulled pork, cooked on the Big Green Egg for seven hours, followed by a main course of summer bean salad with orange and chive dressing, rocket and horseradish sauce topped with sliced locally sourced sirloin and skewered roasted baby potatoes.

"We were delighted to be able to supply the Big Green Egg Barbecue for this prestigious event," says Adam Pedersen, Topstak director. "The 'Egg' is a very versatile outdoor cooking system, and it is possible to create a wide range of meals, from grilled meats and vegetables, to slow-cooked meat and even to make pizzas."

Function organiser, Hugh Childs, an avid golfer and member of the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, was delighted with the al fresco food cooked on the Big Green Egg: "We had 50 people for lunch on Saturday and 25 on Sunday, and the plaudits for the food were overwhelming."

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club's Senior Open Championships featured golfing legends Tom Watson and Colin Montgomerie.

Barry man takes up 20 challenges!

A VALE resident is taking on almost 20 sporting challenges across the UK – to raise money for Alzheimer's research at Cardiff University.

Jon Hussey (34), says the memory of his late grandmother, who had suffered from Alzheimer's for several years, was his personal motivation.

Recalling his grandmother's battle with the disease, Jon says: "We saw her deteriorate from a normal functioning adult to becoming almost like a child again. She lost her personality, her logic, and her ability to function.

"It was very painful to see her lose her sense of self. It is a very cruel disease."

He discovered the cutting-edge Alzheimer's research carried out at Cardiff University through his sister, who is an alumna of the institute.

"I chose Cardiff University, as opposed to a more traditional charity, because I wanted my sponsorship to go into the research that may one day lead to halting, or even preventing, Alzheimer's. I also wanted it to go directly to those doing this invaluable work," Jon explained.

Jon, who lives in Barry, has already competed in 10 sporting challenges, including the 10k St David's Day Run, the Cardiff Bay Five Mile Race, and the Blenheim Palace Triathlon.

"The experience so far has been fantastic," says Jon. "I can honestly say I'm having the best year of my life. I feel like I'm doing something with meaning and purpose that may make a small contribution to a huge problem – Alzheimer's."

The worst is not yet over, with some of the UK's most strenuous sporting events coming his way in the latter half of the year, including Tough Mudder, the two mile Loch Lomond Swim, the Chepstow Stampede, and the Cardiff Half Marathon.

To support Jon's fundraising campaign for Alzheimer's research at Cardiff University, visit https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jonhussey1. To follow Jon's progress throughout the year, follow his page https://www.facebook.com/2014aseriesofunfortunateevents.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE / *in brief*

Summer play

BCBC and Bridgend Town Council are again running a school holiday play-scheme aimed at the 8 – 12 years age range at Bridgend Recreation Centre until Friday, August 22. Sessions, Monday to Friday, from 10am to 2pm.

Shadows Club

AUGUST 12, Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (Tel 029 20 30 9979); South Wales Shadows Club's meeting; 8pm; all welcome.

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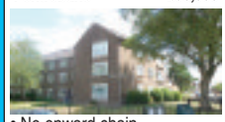
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• Two bedroom
• Modern end of link
• Well presented
• Viewing essential
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Murrel Close £229,950

• Detached family home
• Four bedrooms
• Garage
• Conservatory
CANTON

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• First floor apartment
• Two bedrooms
• Living room/kitchen
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BARRY

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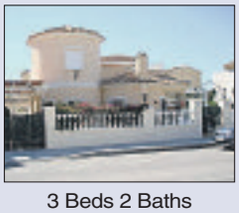

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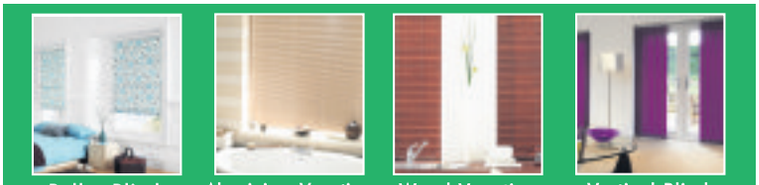

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PLUMBING SECTION
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Public Notices

RHYBUDD O GYTUNDEB I GREU LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 69 GWENFÔ) CYTUNDEB I GREU A CHYFLWYNO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

1. Bydd y cytundeb uchod, a gwblhawyd ar 3 Gorffennaf 2014, yn creu llwybr troed cyhoeddus sy'n dderbyniol gan y perchennog tir.
2. Bydd y cytundeb yn creu llwybr troed cyhoeddus sy'n cychwyn ar y Brifford Sirol a adwaenir fel 'St Lythans Road' ac yn arwain ymlaen ar hyd llwybr graean i gyfeiriad y de ddwyrain.

   Bydd Llwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 69 Gwenfô'n cychwyn ar y Brifford Sirol a adwaenir fel 'St Lythans Road' ac yn arwain ymlaen ar hyd llwybr graean i gyfeiriad y de ddwyrain.
3. Cewch weld copi o'r cytundeb yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm ar unrhyw ddiwrnod yn ystod yr wythnos. Bydd copïau o'r cytundeb ar werth yn y fan honno hefyd am £4.50 yr un.
4. Mae'r cytundeb yn dod i rym ar unwaith.

Dyddiedig 31 Gorffennaf 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 69 WENVOE) PUBLIC PATH CREATION & DEDICATION AGREEMENT 2014

1. The above named agreement completed on the 3rd day of July 2014 has the effect of creating a public footpath by agreement with the landowner.
2. The effect of the agreement is to create a public footpath commencing at the County Highway known as St Lythans Road and continues southeast along a gravel track.

   Public Footpath 69 Wenvoe commences from the County Highway known as St Lythans Road and continues southeast along a gravel track.
3. A copy of the agreement may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the agreement may be bought there at £4.50.
4. The Agreement comes into operation with immediate effect.

Dated 31 July 2014

Director of Development Services, Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

Situations Vacant

Carrie Elspeth

Customer Service Administrator

Carrie Elspeth is an award winning jewellery design and manufacturer based in Llandow, Cowbridge. We currently have a vacancy for a customer service representative.

The job is a full time cover for long term sickness until Christmas, however for the right candidate it could become a permanent position. Computer skills are essential so computer literate, customer focused applicants would be favoured. Also a good telephone manner is essential. Closing date for applications 6th August.

For an application form, please email steve@carrieelspeth.com

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A vacancy also exists for a part-time kitchen hand, the successful applicant will possess the above skills as well as experience working in a busy kitchen.

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15 JULY

CARMEN

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Stephanie Ridler

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We are so proud of you!
All our love
Mum & Dad
xxx

ELWYN R THOMAS

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on receiving your BSc (Hons) agricultural management degree at Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester.

All our love, Mum, family & friends

Family Notices

SHAW
Robert Martin
(Bobby)

Suddenly at home on 22nd July - Bobby, aged 32 years, much loved Son of Robert Snr and Jean.

He will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Monday 4th August at 3.45pm where friends may meet.

Friends are welcome to join the family after the service at The Brynhill Golf Club, Port Road East, Barry after the funeral to share your memories of Bobby.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962

GILBERTS

Pat, Tim, Amanda & the family wish to thank all those who supported them on their sad loss. The many cards and expressions of sympathy have been a great comfort to them.

They thank everyone who attended Howard's funeral service and would like to thank the nurses, doctors and staff at Llandough Hospital for the loving care and attention they gave to Howard.

PIKE
Elaine Margaret

Peacefully on July 25th at Velindre Hospital - Elaine formerly of Grangetown and Penarth. Loving wife of the late Colin and dearly devoted Mum of Nicola & Gareth. Adored Nanna of Olivia and Brandon. Elaine will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until a celebration of her life at the Vale Funeral Service Chapel, Windsor Road, Barry (Opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Thursday 7th August at 10.45am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Immediate family flowers only - donations if desired may be made at the service to the 'Brian Tumour Charity' or via their website *www.braintumouruk.org.uk* in memory of Elaine.

Robert Webb
(Bob)

Suddenly at his home in Llantwit Major after a short illness on Wednesday 23rd July with his family.

Beloved husband of Brenda and much loved father of Glyn and Sandra and father-in-law of Gary, loving grandad to James, Alex, Sam, Catherine and Melissa and great grandad to Lily, who will be very much missed by all who knew him.

Funeral August 6th, service and cremation 3pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium. (No flowers by request).

MITCHELL
Muriel Marjorie
(nee Hook)

Peacefully at Llandough hospital on 26th July 2014 aged 95 years. Beloved wife to the late Wilfred, much loved mother to Ann and Les, mother-in-law to Chris and Jean, nan to Helen and Neil, grandma to Katie, Leon and Tracey, great grandmother to Lauren, Jacob, Taliesin, Tathan, Shannon and Taylor.

Colourful attire to be worn please, no black.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the service in St Johns Methodist Church, Barry Island on Monday 4th August 2014 at 12.30pm followed by a committal service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only, donations to Cardiff & The Vale ULHB. Please write 'Breast Centre Llandough' on the back of the cheque and send to:

Michelle Chivers, Fundraising Administrator, Breast Centre, Penlan Road, University Hospital of Llandough, Llandough, Penarth, CF64 2XX.

Elaine Pike

Mum, Goodnight, sweet dreams, forever in our hearts.

Craig, Michelle, Thomas and Kiara.

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
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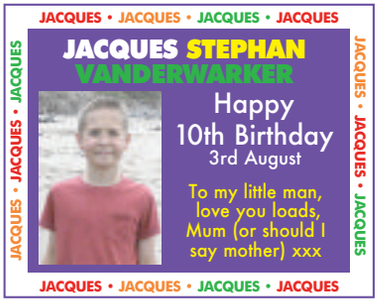
Birthdays



Birthday Memories

Birthday Memories

T.K. FARMAN

31.7.25 -14.1.09

I never thought that loneliness
Could bring such bitter pain
That memories could hurt me so
And wound my heart again
Yet even in despair
I know that every tear
I shed would grieve the heart that loved me so
So I will try to smile instead

Your ever loving wife, Gwyneth

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A disappointing weekend for Sully Centurions

Sully Centurions 1st XI entertained top-of-the-table Pontymister at Burnham Avenue and were well beaten.

The visitors batted first and were 160 for 7 with nine overs to go. Thanks to some big hitting late on in the innings, they finished on 241 for 8 after the 50 overs.

Salman (46) and Adnan Ghori (65) did the bulk of the damage for Pontymister. The wickets were shared around among the Sully bowlers, with Nathan Cuddihy taking two.

In reply, Centurions started brightly with openers Tom Edwards (27) and Shae Ellis (12) getting the home side to 30 runs within the first 5 overs.

However, the only other Sully batsman to get into double figures was Owain Sullivan, who hit 11. A big collapse saw Centurions skittled out for just 88 in the 25th over.

Ghori added to his fine batting performance by taking 3 for 12, with the best figures posted by Muhammed Asif, who finished on 4 for 15 off just six overs.

Seconds back to earth with a bump

After last week's big win, Centurions' 2nd XI came crashing down to earth with a bump when they were comprehensively beaten by a powerful Pontymister side.

After grabbing a couple of early wickets to leave Pontymister on 34 for 2, Sully came up against Sharratt (118) and Lancaster (70) who dispatched the visiting attack to all corners, as they shared a third wicket stand of 166. This gave the rest of the batsmen licence to hit out and although a total of nine wickets were lost, the home side still managed to post a huge total of 343 at the end of the 45 overs.

In spite of the daunting total, a special mention must be made of young Gethin Hicks, who managed to finish with figures of 2 for 28 in his first senior match.

The Centurions innings never really got into top gear as wickets fell regularly. Opener Dan Chaulk hit 38 before being stumped with the score on 65 for 6.

Only Paul Harrison (19) and Emma Davies (17) managed to reach double figures, with the innings closing on 115 all out in the 37th over. Asif Ali (3 for 22) and Mian (3 for 10, including five maidens) were the pick of the bowlers for the victorious home side.

SAINTS SHOW FINE PRE-SEASON FORM

BARRY Saints kept up their 100 per cent pre-season record with a win over CSKA Sophia Gardens.

CSKA took an early lead after a defensive lapse, leaving the striker with a simple finish. The Saints hit back immediately with Darren Townsend placing an accurate drive into the bottom corner.

Saints were playing the better football and making numerous chances but conceded a carbon copy of the first goal, but gain the scores were levelled after a delicious corner was hit firmly home on the volley by Andrew Wyatt.

Saints landed a lethal blow with some tidy football finding Joey Matthews, who bent the ball in to the top corner from 25 yards.

Another swift move gave Townsend an opportunity to strike at goal. It was heading straight to the keeper, only for the ball to bobble between his legs!

Saints made changes for the second half and were immediately punished as poor communication resulted in an easy goal for the opposition. David Evans restored the two goal advantage after a sweetly-struck shot from 25 yards into the bottom corner. Townsend managed to complete his hat-trick after cutting in from the right and lobbing the keeper with ease from 30 yards.

Michael Evans finished the scoring for another victory, 7-3 and a good run out for the Saints.

Special thanks to FitM8 of Park Crescent, Barry for providing Barry Saints AFC with a match ball for the forthcoming season.

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'Handsome' wins for Cadoxton A bowlers

AFTER a couple of months of struggling to find enough players to field a full team, Cadoxton's A side has seen off two CML5 league opponents in fine style, winning both matches handsomely.

An earlier CML5 match against Barry Central on Saturday, July 19, saw Alex Turner skip a triple against a full rink skipped by Tom Caged, to complete the only Cadoxton success: R Cole, D Hammond, A Turner 20 – 13; S Clements, A Field, A Prince, A Carpenter 8 – 27; J Stacey, I Heppenstall, M Curtis 11 – 24; E Heppenstall, D Fanning, J Sugden 18 – 25. Totals: 38 – 102.

A game against Murch A, having been postponed twice was eventually played on Monday, July 21, resulting in a four-rink 102-55 shots victory for Cadoxton.

Last weekend, a visit to Rumney A on Saturday, July 26 saw the Cadoxton A-siders record another clear-cut victory: D Fanning, J Sugden, L Davies, D Tuck 19-20; A Carpenter, G Solomon, D Jefferies, R Harding 14-23; J Stacey, D Hammond, Craven, D Kuhnell 24-14; R Byrne, H Hellyar, M Curtis, J Jones 34-14. Totals: 91 -71.

In both matches, lead newcomer Rob Byrne and vice-captain Dennis Hammond played significant parts, ably supported by a prudent mix of experienced and newish recruits.

A-side captain David Fanning said that: "Every so often it's good to remind people that Cadoxton were playing top-notch bowls while other Barry and nearby clubs were just twinkles in their founders' parents' eyes."

The club side achieved some significant results in its recent Munro Cup matches.

On Wednesday, July 16, Barry Plastics were the visitors to Cadoxton for this fixture which resulted in two winning rinks each with the visitors taking the aggregate.

John Jones skipped the most successful rink for Cadoxton against Lee Romans' rink.

The first half of the game was controlled by the home rink. Starting with a three and a four, the score reached 16-3 with just one losing end.

A 'mini' recovery reduced the advantage by nine shots during the next four ends, but a big finish, including two threes, completed a considerable success.

Gordon Davies was the other successful skip against Peter Oxenham, but this was a much tighter affair.

The scores were tied on three occasions and after 14 ends were completed the home side had a slender two-shot advantage which was boosted on the next with a five; however shots were conceded during the closing ends to reduce the margin to just one.

Derek Brook only managed four winning ends against experienced skip Keith Romans.

After opening with a four against, Howard Craven's rink won three singles and conceded four against opposing skip Graham Brown.

The remaining 10 ends brought further success for the visitors, with six winning ends, including three threes, to win substantially: R Byrne, D Hammond, I Robertson, H Craven 10 - 22; S Clements, G Solomon, S Clarke, D Brook 6 - 27; E Heppenstall, J Sugden, D Evans, G Davies, 17 - 16; J Stacey, P Swannick, D Jeffries, J Jones 25 – 12. Totals: 58 - 77.

The club side's Munro Cup home fixture on Wednesday, July 20 against Windsor Penarth was a close-run battle until the visitors broke away for an 81-41 shot win.

In a CML4 league match, at home to Penryheol A on July 19, the club side started badly, with all four rinks losing the opening exchanges.

Skipping for the side for the first time, Gordon Davies conceded a two and a three before recovering steadily to lead by the 13th end before running out the winner by three shots.

Kelvin Chedgzoy lost three shots on the opening end but responded with a six on the next before a run of three losing ends reduced the deficit to two, which was never recovered and eventually resulted in an 18-27 loss.

Howard Craven's rink dropped nine shots behind, pulling back with a fine five until two fours against near the end took away any hope of a victory.

Overall, by the 12th end the visitors were seven shots ahead and closed out the match 16 shots ahead: L Davies, S Clarke, D Brook, H Craven 13-25; P Swannick, R Harding, P Ellis, K Chedgzoy 18-27; R Byrne, D Evans, J Jones, D Kuhnell 23-21; G Solomon, I Robertson, D Jefferies, G Davies 21-18.

Totals: 75-91.

DAVID FANNING

LEE TESTS HIMSELF

BARRY CHESS CLUB NEWS

LAST week saw the start of the 101st British Chess Championships.

This year it is the turn of Wales to host the event, which is taking place in Aberystwyth University. While there are a number of different competitions, the main event is the British Championship, which takes place over 11 rounds of play.

These games commence at 2.30pm each day with a possible playing time of seven hours.

The eventual winner will not only have to play exceptional chess but will need enormous amounts of stamina.

There are approximately 60 entrants, mainly from England, with Lee Davis from the Barry Chess Club also taking part. With his FIDE rating of 1978, Lee is ranked 53rd in the tournament.

All of Lee's opponents in the first six rounds were ranked well above him. In the first round, Lee had an excellent win over Joseph McPhillips, rated 2200. His next two opponents were an IM and an FM, so there was no disgrace in losing both of these games.

In round four Lee drew with FM Mike Waddington and in round five he earned another draw, this time against Oskar Hackner. Alas, in round six against his weakest opponent to date, although still giving away approximately 100 ranking points, he lost again.

So, after six rounds Lee had two points which placed him in 50th spot in the table.

After the seventh round there was a break in play to allow the players to recuperate before the final four rounds of matches this week.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details, visit barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

Phil Jones
Club Secretary

Ladies golf results at Brynhill GC

Carole Allen.

Linda Hewlett.

Mother and daughter, Helen Cook and Shirley O'Donovan with lady vice captain Glynis Gould.

ON July 22, wall-to-wall sunshine was the order of the day for the Brynhill lady vice captain's competion.

Well done to all 39 lady golfers who completed the course and played in such exhausting conditions.

Glynis had ordered the sun, but not in such huge quantities!

The presentation was well attended in the evening and the prizes were presented.

Thanks to Glynis for a well-organised day and night.

Winners: Silver, Helen Cook 38 points, runner upLinda Hewlett 37; bronze, Shirley O'Donovan 37points over back nine from Carole Allen.

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Whitmore Bay carnival proves a huge success

THE weather was perfect for the early Sunday morning start, which saw over 150 nippers represented from 11 surf lifesaving clubs from across the south Wales coast, helping to make the second Whitmore Bay Carnival a great success.

In total there were 60 events during the day for the various age groups between 7 – 12 years.

The competition started with 'beach flags', which is highly competitive and action-packed and is used to practice sprinting and reflexes.

Then followed sprints and team relays.

A very popular sandhopper race for the club's younger 5 – 7 year-olds saw the future nippers get a taste of what being a volunteer lifeguard is all about.

The afternoon saw events move into the water with run, swim, run and rescue board events. The final fun event was a tug-of-war between each of the clubs – with Whitmore taking the Cup.

The overall winners were Rhoose, followed by Rest Bay, with Whitmore Bay coming third, closely followed by the team from Llantwit Major.

Well done to all the nippers who took part – the hours of practice, determination and teamwork shone through on the day. A huge thank you goes to all the coaches, parents and everyone who helped with the organisation and running of the day and to all the clubs for coming to take part. A great day was had by all.

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Ladies tennis players finish with flourish

THE ladies first team at Cowbridge Tennis Club have ended their season on a winning run and finishing third in Division 2.

It started with a busy weekend of tennis and a 3-3 draw away at Chepstow.

The next day the team were home against David Lloyd where first pair Alison Kurobasa and Gill Ridout won both their matches and Nonie Hempson and Karen James and Caroline Summers and Katie Betts were one apiece for a 4-2 victory.

A week later the team were away at Alt-yr-yn, where Karen and Nonie won both their matches; Louise Hailstone and Gill won one as did Alison and Charlotte Kurobasa who narrowly missed out on a second win when they lost 12-10 in a third set tie break. Cowbridge won the match 4-2.

The final match of the season was at home against Chepstow.

Again Nonie and Karen stepped up to play as first pair and won two rounds, with Louise and Caroline winning one. A debut in the first team for junior player Ela Williams playing with Kathy Harwood Morgan winning one round to secure a 4-2 result and retain a place in Division 2 for next year.

'DROPPED CATCHES' COST THE COWBRIDGE FIRSTS

ON a baking hot afternoon, Cowbridge First XI welcomed Llanelli Cricket Club to the Athletic Field.

The weather and the teams combined to produce an exciting contest with the home side gaining a 'winning draw' in a match that swung one way and then the other.

Cowbridge won the toss, decided to bat and proceeded to score 214 for 9 wickets. In reply, Llanelli reached 190 for 9 in their 50 overs thereby preventing Cowbridge from claiming an outright victory.

Chris Willey (86) dominated the home side's innings. This was by far his best, and most crucial, innings of the season.

He was ably supported by Alex Kurobassa (33). Chris came to the crease in the 11th over when the score was 49 for 2 and was eventually caught when the score was 180.

The partnership with Alex was so vital in the context of the match, coming at a time when the team was in danger of failing to use all 50 overs, a sin that they have been guilty of previously this season.

Lewis Jones (4-46) was the pick of the Llanelli bowlers. Llanelli First XI's innings was a mirror image of that the home side.

From the loss of a number of early wickets (53-4) another vital partnership took the score to 157 in the 36th. over, at which point they must have thought that an away victory was within sight, thanks mainly to Sam Weeds (77).

In an increasingly tense atmosphere Phil Harris, returning for his second spell, brought to an end Llanelli's optimism and almost claimed the victory for Cowbridge.

He captured a couple of quick wickets to stop their progress and ended the day with figures of 6-51 off 15 overs. It was a very fine spell of attacking bowling, matching the exact figures that he recorded earlier in the season in Llangennech.

Will Haines took the other wicket to fall and the others were run out. The 9th wicket fell in the 41st over and the last pair batted out the remaining overs without much difficulty.

It was a very frustrating end for the home side and their supporters when one recalls the dropped catches during the match. So fine performances from Chris Willey and Phil Harris to report, but the old adage of 'catches win matches' may return to haunt the Cowbridge First XI at the end of the season.

DL

Cowbridge lady bowlers struggle

IN their two matches this week, Cowbridge lady bowlers had two narrow defeats.

In their CCS match away at Bridgend Municipal they lost 33 – 46, winning on one rink, that of Diane Purnell, Carol Davies, Phyllis Price and skip Jan Lewis with a win by 17 shots to 14.

Then the rink with Janet Morton, Diane Lloyd, Sylvia Hole and skip Pat Holdsworth only just lost 11 – 12, but on skip Kay Edwards' rink they lost 5 – 20.

In their league match away at Llantwit Major, in a thrilling close match, they lost by only four shots, winning on one rink and losing on another by only one shot.

The winning rink was Janet Morton, Diane Lloyd, Joy Woolford and skip Shirley Wilkinson, who won 16 – 14, and the rink that only lost by one shot with a score of 17 – 18, was Dorothy Pritchard, Caryl Davies, Sandra Collin and skip Pat Holdsworth.

The rink with Diane Purnell, Jan Lewis, Kay Edwards and skip Sue Flower lost 13 – 18. The final score of the match was 46 – 50.

The men had a close Munro Cup match at home to Barry Plastics, winning by 1 shot, 61 – 60, but they then lost very badly in their league match at home to Pontypridd, losing on all four rinks, with a final score of 65 shots to 99.

In the Munro Cup we had two winning rinks, that of Bryan Hole, Phil Woosman, Colin Wilson and skip Alan Wallace, who won 18 – 10, and also the rink with Ron Frayling, Gerwyn Watkins, Byron Richards and skip John Trott, who won 21 – 14.

On the rink of skip Dennis Snelling they lost 12 – 15, and skip Guy Morton's rink lost 10~21. Overall a very close victory.

In our league match, playing against a very good Pontypridd side, we lost on all four rinks by a score of 65 – 99.

Skip Roger Barwick's rink lost 16 – 26, skip Dennis Snelling's rink lost 18 – 28 (after winning by 18 – 7 at half time), skip Mike Bradley's rink lost 16 – 24 (after winning by 16 – 12) and on skip John Trott's rink they lost 15 – 21, after losing 0 – 12 after six ends.

Our next league match is away at Llantwit Major.

NJW

Russell brothers make their mark

STRADEY Park has changed since this scribe saw the All Blacks thrashed there in 1972.

The stadium is now an estate of little boxes, and the pitch, including Phil Bennett' s stud marks, has been transferred to the outfield of the cricket club next door. This was where Cowbridge Second XI played Llanelli on July 26.

The strip in contrast was flat, and gave nothing to the bowlers, despite it being hard. The weather was almost perfect, warm and bright, generally without any glaring sun, but with a cooling breeze off the Lougher estuary.

Cowbridge lost the toss and were put in to field. Sean Rowland bowled a consistent 9 overs, always looking in control and taking 2 for 54.

The captain then changed from speed to 'Guyile', giving the ball to Guy Parker on his annual Haj to Cowbridge from Bharain. The Llanelli batsmen were at times tied in knots, and Guy returned figures of 15 overs, 2 wickets for 42 runs.

He was well supported by captain Ian Evans with 6 overs, 2 wickets for 36 runs. The bowling sensation was the appearance of Sam Russell, only 13 years old, but showing a consistency and maturity of someone twice his age.

In his 6 overs he took 3 wickets for only 15. In this he was greatly assisted by his older brother Jo, who took three catches, one an amazing effort while running rapidly away from the batsman to catch a high ball coming over head.

The other fielding was perhaps not all that was wanted, but behind the wickets Darren van de Vyver made three stumpings. His commitment and enthusiasm have been a great addition to the second eleven.

Llanelli were bowled out for 212 with three overs left. This was a factor that would be very important in the Cowbridge innings, and having Llanelli all out provided extra bowling points.

Without two of their principal batsmen, 212 looked a formidable challenge, but nothing daunted Darren and Chris Ross. Making a very welcome return after ill health, they took the score along until Chris was out for 10. It was his first proper innings for over a year, but the old skills are clearly still there.

Darren made 24 with excellent technique which must see his elevation to the firsts next year. Sean Rowland then played a fine innings of 33, followed by Jo Russell with 27, and at the half way stage Cowbridge were 106, just what they wanted, for only 3 wickets.

Unfortunately, although Ian Evans made 13, the only real resistance thereafter came from Guy Parker whose preying mantis stance evidently discomfited the Llanelli bowlers.

The time came, however, when there was only one wicket in hand, and because Cowbridge had dismissed Llanelli without using all their overs, thus giving Cowbridge 53 overs to match Llanelli's score, there were still another five overs for Llanelli to bowl.

The combined age of the final Cowbridge pair being 126, this seemed to encourage the Llanelli side to believe "it is all over now", but Guy continued to advance the score, finishing with a personal total of 23 not out, while David Webb ignored everything off the stumps and played straight on the rest. Cowbridge finished on 162 for 9.

It was a good result for a depleted side against good opposition, and a triumph for the Russell family.

Although one or two disagreements popped up it was to both sides' credit that these were put behind them, and the game was concluded in friendly manner with mutual congratulations, and welcome refreshment, late into the evening.

DW

VALE FIRSTS FRUSTRATED

VALE Firsts were involved in a controversial game ultimately going down to a 3 wicket defeat.

Having been put in, the Vale made good progress as an opening partnership of 43 was made before Gareth Andrews edged behind falling for 22.

Vale then lost two quick wickets as Billy Yates edged to slip and Matthew Gilbert was caught for 21.

Enter young guns John Harvey and Ollie Pike who then put together a 91 run partnership with some lovely strokeplay and quick running between the wickets which took the side to 146-4.

John Harvey was the first to go bowled for 45.

With the opening bowler bowled out and some senior heads to come a score in excess of 250 looked likely.

However, some of the old heads didn't fire as JP Davies and Mark Francis departed quickly.

Pike edged behind in unusal circumstances having made an excellent 42 and it was left to skipper Paul Sheppard making 34 and Paul Gilbert 17 to get Vale up to a score of 234 with the side once again failing to use all their overs getting bowled out in the 48th over.

Pike and Darren Upham opened the bowling but on the good batting wicket Monkswood made steady progress.

However, it was not long before the first controversy arrived.

Monkswood opening bat M Malson edged to first slip where Sheppard took what appeared a good catch. He wasn't given out.

Tensions were raised on the field. Malson went on to score 71.

Upham bowled out returning good figures of 1-39 off 10.

Tom Taylor on as first change also bowled well picking up 1 wicket but returning good figures 1-34 off 10 overs.

Vale's problem was their middle overs and death bowling where 115 runs were conceded in 18 overs although Monkswood were at this stage looking to increase their run rate.

Vale didn't help themselves dropping a number of catches again although Pike (2), Paul Gilbert, Matthew Gilbert and Tom Taylor all held catches.

Unfortunately, a 'stumping' wasn't given which further inflamed tensions between the two sides.

Matthew Gilbert picked up 2 wickets returning figures of 2-41 off 6 overs and Sheppard bowled 3 overs at the death and could have picked up more than the 1 wicket. Pike returned to complete decent figures of 1-37 off his 10 overs.

While Vale contributed to their own downfall in this game there is no doubt that the players felt some very poor umpiring decisions cost them dear.

VALE Seconds arrived at Monkswood full of expectation, having put in two creditable performances in the weeks before but went down to a heavy 206 run defeat.

Unfortunately, Vale lost the toss and were asked to field on a hot day and suffered in the intense heat.

Vale gave away 50 wides, an extra 8.2 overs of bowling, which didn't help our cause at all!

Added to this, we had a dropped catch in the first couple of overs at slip and with no appeals being given either, so their opening batsman went on to give them a very good and steady start.

The breakthrough did eventually come which gave us a little bit of momentum which meant that we went on to pick up 6 wickets in total. However, Monkswood amassed a large total of 293-6 off their 45 overs with J Jenkins scoring 65, D Pilley 57 and M Malsom 62.

For Vale young Alex Upham took 2-44 off 7 overs and skipper Steve Harper 2-16.

The lesson had to be that good line and length are the key, as anything short was punished on what was a lightening outfield. Frustration also has to be put to one side, with making the next ball count! A lesson that the youngsters will take on board and make them better for next time.

When it came to our batting, it never really got going. Just as we thought that we were going to have a good start, with some great shots being played, the wickets started to fall and that's how it continued for the rest of the afternoon.

The wicket was a little inconsistent as the game went on, holding up some times and not bouncing at others.

Added to this, the sun had also disappeared and so there more swing for the bowlers and so Vale were soon on their way home having been bowled out for 87 with Lyndon Jones top scorer with 16 and Luke John 15 not out.

Vale were also unhappy at the umpiring of wides which was very damaging during the Monkswood innings.

Mark Francis

The sun shines for Jenny at St Athan Golf Club

THE sun shone for Jenny Young, lady captain of St Athan Golf Club, on her lady captain's day and the lady members arrived en masse to support her.

The clubhouse was decorated with bunting and balloons and the vice captain of the men's section, Taff Edwards, started proceedings by presenting Jenny with a lovely bouquet and wishing her all the best for her special day.

The individual Stableford competition was keenly contested in sunshine, which was more like Spain or Miami! The half time refreshment tent was greatly appreciated although in the hot conditions water was not surprisingly more in demand than wine!

The ladies also completed a devilishly hard putting competition devised by John Davies; this was won by Jackie Hawkins.

The main competition resulted in a win in the bronze division for Gaynor Williams, with Sandra Goodchap as runner-up. In the silver division, Jayne Williams was the winner, with Erin Allison runner-up. Other winners were Liz Thomas – nearest the pin; Michelle Bligh – longest drive; chipping competition – Margaret Jeynes, and the hidden holes were won by Sally Casey and Denise McGowan.

After Pimms on the terrace, the ladies sat down to a sumptuous Mediterranean dinner prepared by Lianne, our talented caterer.

The committee then entertained the ladies with a song written by Steph Bonner to the tune of 'Bread of Heaven', with words reminiscing about Jenny's year so far as captain.

Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful day and thanked Jenny for all her had work, not only for the day, but during her year.

If you are a lady golfer and want to join in with our exciting and fun section, contact the club; you will be made very welcome.

RMJ